

FASHIONABLE FOLLIES. K

A
N O V E L.

CONTAINING

T H E H I S T O R Y

OF A

P A R I S I A N F A M I L Y.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

Τὴν γὰρ δοιδὴν μᾶλλον ἐπικλείουσ' ἄνθρωποι,
ἥτις ἀνεύοντεςσι νεωτάτη ἀμφιπέλῃται.

HOM. Odysf.

For NOVEL LAYS attract our ravish'd ears ;
But OLD the Mind with inattention hears.

POPE, lh.

V O L I.

L O N D O N :

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M.DCC.LXXXI.

THE HISTORY OF THE

ROYAL

NAVY

FROM THE EARLIEST PERIODS TO THE PRESENT



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THE HISTORY OF THE ROYAL NAVY

BY

P R E F A C E.

A Celebrated Writer having given it as his Opinion, that, “Non omnis Error STULTITIA est dicenda”—*Every Mistake is not to be called a Folly*; so the present Writer hopes, CANDOUR, in perusing the subsequent Sheets, will kindly reverse the Observation, and say, *Nor is every Folly to be called a Mistake*. And the Indulgence of the Reader is further requested

P R E F A C E.

requested to excuse and correct such
typographical Errors, as will often
escape the Accuracy of the most
careful Printer and Reviser: re-
membering,

In human works, tho' labour'd on with Pain,
A thousand movements scarce *one purpose* gain.

POPE'S Essay on Man.

FASHIONABLE FOLLIES.

F O L L Y I.

THE Baron d'Urbín had attained that age, when, it is to be presumed, the stormy passions are hushed into a calm, or to speak less poetically, he had more than compleated his seventieth year; yet, accustomed from his earliest youth to every fashionable dissipation, his reflections on the various scenes of luxurious pleasure, in which he had so frequently

quently been engaged, awakened such pleasing sensations and so warmed his imagination by recollection, that these lively ideas striking on the flint of his memory, and from thence dropping on a heart little better than tinder, brought a kind of fire in his eyes which might serve to remind the beholders of those mountains we read of, emitting flames from their fummits, though every other part of them is incrufted with fnow and ice. The Baron, however, though certainly old, did not in the leaft refemble the generality of men at his age. He was naturally good-tempered, lively, gay, entertaining and ever well received in the beft and politeft circles of Paris—he enjoyed a perfect ftate of health, except now and then an unwelcome vifit from the gout made him call in the aid of his ivory-headed crutch and quilted fatten shoe,

shoe, but otherwise walked like a man of thirty ; held himself as upright as possible, and spoke in a loud voice to prove his lungs unimpaired—he was likewise peculiarly happy in a valet-de-chambre, who, by his judicious and elegant manner of dressing a large profusion of fair curls to resemble a fine head of hair, hid many of his wrinkles, took off several years from his appearance, and perfectly ingratiated himself into his master's esteem and affection. The Baron generally passed the morning at his toilette ; and being dressed by noon, in the most perfect etiquette of the fashion, he proceeded in his glittering vis-a-vis to pay a circle of visits to some of the most distinguished beauties ; and his evenings were chiefly devoted to places of public diversion, where, both at the play and opera, he ogled, nodded and smiled on the
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the actresses without mercy. The women of fashion in general received his adorations with good humour, diverted themselves with his superannuated compliments, and thought it an additional proof of their charms to subdue a lover who had been the delight and cecisbeo of their great-grandmothers; whilst the Baron imagined his antiquated affection could not fail of inspiring the most flattering return of tenderness and love; and when they smiled at his extravagant raptures, he fancied they approved his passion—whilst, such was his vanity, that he was not in the least astonished at his good fortune; but considered it as the mere irresistible effects and impression of his all-conquering person and charms.

FOLLY

F O L L Y II.

THE Baronefs D'Urbín, who had journeyed through almost as many winters as the Baron, possessed the same propensity for gaiety and pleasure with himself; and being equally vain, and desirous of appearing young and handsome, every art which could either adorn her person, or make her appear more amiable and lovely, was constantly exerted. A *tete built* by the most celebrated hair-architect in all Paris, formed in curls and ringlets of Cupids and bleeding hearts, with a great quantity of rouge, and some well directed patches, gave her, according to her idea, the bloom and graces of fifteen; whilst a pair of tight stays, made by the most fashionable workman, drew her flat figure into a proper

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roundness

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roundness at the top, and smallness at the bottom; a true garrison hoop hid the pointed projection of her bony hips, and shewed the thin ankle to advantage: thus adorned and armed for conquest, she practised a thousand ridiculous airs, and in humble imitation of the god of love, her arrows, like his, were equally directed to the young and old, plain and handsome. Every fancied conquest equally gratified her vanity, and love of universal power; she smiled on one, affected an air of coldness and disdain to another; laughed and whispered with a third, whilst negligently reclined on an elegant sofa with a fourth, she amused herself with her guitar or knotting, to display the snowy whiteness of her hands and arms; and thus employed she would circulate the scandal of the day, in an half-lisp kind of whispering tone; every now
and

and then biting and pinching her lips to give them a more inviting redness. At length perceiving her conquests not quite so extensive, or her slaves so faithful as her vanity expected, she began to consider what could possibly occasion such a falling off in her powers of attraction; but at length turning about, and seeing at some little distance her beautiful daughter of seventeen, in a circle of pretty fellows, with a form and height, which, whilst it convicted her of her declining age, convinced her also, that her artificial charms had now the misfortune of being cruelly eclipsed by this bloom of elegance, youth, and beauty; and thus chagrined at so dreadful a truth, (which, however, she would not for the world have acknowledged) she began for the first time to see the essential difference between herself
and

and Mademoiselle D'Urbain; and from that moment looked upon her with an envious and jealous eye, and was ever horribly out of temper when she was under the mortifying necessity of making her one of the party, either at home or abroad.

FOLLY

F O L L Y III.

IN imminent danger of being thus wholly neglected, the enraged Baroness at length resolved on an expedient well known to most Parisian mothers, whose daughters are either grown tall enough, or handsome enough to claim a share in their conquests: she instantly therefore determined on a convent, in order to sequester those powerful charms which now began to cause her so much disquietude; this resolve, however, required some pause, and days consideration, to carry into proper execution; not that she herself ever meant to become her frequent visitor, but wished this convent to be one of the first in reputation, that the world might approve her conduct in the steps she was taking, when they

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they came to know Mademoiselle D'Urbia was placed there; and so great was her care and delicacy in this point, that it being one of those where young women of quality had been usually educated, and one celebrated for the piety and learning of its inhabitants, was not a sufficient recommendation; she rather wished it one of those, where some Princess resided at that time, or at least one of those, that had been an asylum for blood-royal. Nor was it long before the Baroness had the supreme happiness of hearing of one suitable to her present wishes; and no sooner had she made the important discovery, than she instantly conducted her daughter to this brilliant prison; and returned home, with the most perfect satisfaction at having thus at once relieved herself from so very troublesome a companion and rival.

FOLLY

F O L L Y IV.

THE Baron expressed little or no concern at the Baroness's return from the convent without Mademoiselle D'Urbins; having long resigned the reins and entire management of all domestic concerns, his own attention (as he thought) being more agreeably taken up and amused, than in the dull mechanic observance of the conduct of either his wife or daughter; and indeed the time of a man of gallantry, is too precious to be devoted to women so nearly related to him; he was likewise at this juncture, for the hundred and fifty-sixth time, most violently in love; and so great was his passion, that it entirely changed his natural disposition. The agitation of his mind was imprinted on his very countenance; he be-
came

came grave and thoughtful ; sighed most profoundly ; lost both sleep and appetite ; and was never happy but when in company with the beloved object of his amorous passion. The nymph who had now made a conquest so flattering to her vanity, was a beauty of eighteen, a perfect Euphrosyne, who lived only to laugh, dance, and sing ; and so ungovernable was her mirth, that it frequently displayed itself on the most serious subjects : what then must be its effects on one so ridiculous as her old lover, who constantly engaged in all her whims and caprices, with the most eager and docile compliance ? Sometimes she would oblige him to run races with her, 'till he was nearly expiring for want of breath ; at other times she would make him dance, 'till in a most unbecoming perspiration ; now and then, as if intending to confer a favour, she would

would entangle her fingers in his hair, derange his false curls, beat out the marechale powder with her fan, and keep him in agonies lest his own few grey locks should be discovered; and whilst thus suffering little less than the torture, he was obliged to kiss the fingers which acted so maliciously; and often when he threw himself on his knees to implore her concession, she would suddenly ring her bell, that her servants might surprise her gallant in so comic a situation, so unbecoming his years, and which must appear to them so truly ridiculous.

F O L L Y V.

MADAME D'Urbain, in the midst of her affectation, was struck with the figure of an amiable Chevalier of twenty-two; from daily admiration she became partial, and at length carried her ideas so far as to suppose herself actually in love; in consequence of which she redoubled her coquettish airs and antiquated graces, and became, if possible, more ridiculous than before: the object of her affection was, however, far from believing himself to be the cause of these repeated oglings, and was, in reality, the approved lover of the laughing lady, at whose feet we left the Baron; they had obtained the consent of their friends on both sides, and waited with impatience the day fixed for their

their happy union. The Baroness, in the mean time, astonished that her sighs and languishing looks made not any impression on the Chevalier, imputed, with the most perfect satisfaction, his inattention to a want of knowledge of the world, and a diffidence which would not permit him to aspire to a person of her rank and quality; she therefore resolved generously to declare her passion; and took an opportunity of slipping into his pocket, unobserved, a billet couched in the following tender words: “ Ungrateful man, do not my
 “ frequent sighs and downcast eyes suf-
 “ ficiently betray the secret of that
 “ heart which owns you for its con-
 “ queror? Is it modesty, or indifference,
 “ which renders you thus blind to those
 “ sentiments you have inspired? I am
 “ anxious to know from what cause it
 “ can proceed; be therefore in the

“King’s garden at seven to-morrow
 “evening, where I will endeavour to
 “convince you that your felicity de-
 “pends on yourself, and is greater than
 “you can entertain any idea of at pre-
 “sent.”

The Chevalier knew not what to conjecture from the contents of this note; he was equally astonished at the declaration of love, and the manner of its being conveyed into his pocket from a principle of constancy scarcely to be credited; his first emotion tempted him to sacrifice it to his beloved mistress, but like a true man of fashion he soon hushed this liberal idea asleep, and instantly formed in his mind so fair a picture of the beauty and tenderness of the writer, that he hurried before the appointed hour to the place of assignation, with the utmost
 self.

self-complacency and satisfaction. After taking several turns in different walks, with impatient eyes and hasty steps, he at length beheld the old Baroness approach; but fearful, lest her presence would prevent his enamoured charmer and correspondent from making her appearance, he endeavoured to avoid the Baroness; but every method was in vain; resolved to join him, she accosted him with an affected confusion, whilst the Chevalier, whose bosom beat high with expectation and sensations very different from those she could inspire, payed not the least attention to her seeming embarrassment;—answered all her questions with monosyllables only; and unable to conquer or conceal his disquietude at being thus interrupted so *mal à propos*, was going to leave her abruptly, when the enraptured Baroness caught hold of his

hand—" I know (said she) my dear
 " Chevalier, what motive brings you hi-
 " ther; it is to meet the most tender
 " and faithful of her sex, who comes
 " determined to lay aside her rank and
 " dignity, and gratify your passion;
 " and you behold in me the woman on
 " whom your merit has made so deep an
 " impression." Astonished—mortified,
 and confused at this unexpected decla-
 ration, the Chevalier retired with preci-
 pitation, and without power to make her
 any reply; but could not restrain from
 the loudest burst of laughter, which the
 Baroness heard with rage and indigna-
 tion; yet returned home as perfectly fa-
 tisfied with her own charms, as she was
 before she made so mortifying an experi-
 ment.

F O L L Y VI.

THE expected assignation having thus ended in a manner so little conformable to the wishes of the Chevalier, he determined to make a virtue of necessity, and went instantly to acquaint his beloved mistress with his discovery: her sentiments not being sufficiently refined to be hurt by only an intended infidelity, she rallied him on his conquest, and joined in laughing at the resemblance of their destiny, which had favoured them with such antiquated admirers; after many mutual *bon-mots*, smart repartees, and sallies of pleasantry on the occasion, the fair one following the natural liveliness of her disposition, proposed a scheme which the Chevalier, equally malicious, instantly acquiesced

in, and soon after parted seemingly on as good terms as ever; but how much were all their acquaintance astonished, when in a few days the lady became not only thoughtful and reserved with her lover, but was seen stealing glances at the Baron, and often permitted him (with the blush and downcast look of modesty) to kiss her hands, with now and then an opportunity thrown carelessly in his way to urge the passion she had formerly made a jest of? But what heightened this situation still, and makes it more laughable, is, the Chevalier became attached to the Baroness, and seemed charmed with her society; and this he carried so far, that when he could not contrive to play at the same table, he would place himself the whole evening behind her chair, converse with her in whispers, frequent only the families
where

where she visited; and in short, became so much her faithful and devoted cecisbeo, that he at last prevailed on her to once more give him a private interview at the house of a Lady whom they both visited. One day, when the old Baron came as usual to pay his court to the idol of his heart, she ran to meet him in the anti-chamber, "Contrive (said she, in a whispering accent) to steal unperceived " at this hour to-morrow to my chamber, I have something of consequence " to impart to you." The transported Baron was unable to answer, his whole frame shook as if electrified, his voice faltered, and he could only express his ecstasy by squeezing the fair hand he held in his: the wished for to-morrow at length arrived, and the impatient Baron appeared at the house of the charmer; two or three rooms being filled with

B 5

company,

company, soon gave him the wished for opportunity to go unnoticed to the chamber, which he entered on tip toe, and with the utmost precaution and gentleness, shut the door; the shutters were half closed, the curtains entirely drawn down, and a kind of glimmering light seemed to inspire temerity in the lover, and spare the blushes of the lady. The obscurity redoubled the hopes of the Baron, who, on perceiving his mistress reclined on a sofa, approached; and, in defiance of gout, rheumatism, and tremulous old age, threw himself on his knees before her. She sighed most profoundly, yet intimidated (as he supposed) by the novelty of her situation with so enterprising a lover, she continued silent, whilst he in raptures at her condescension, took her hand and bestowed on it the most lively caresses; at length, reclining

clining her head upon his shoulder, "Ah!
 " (said she, in a low voice) beloved Che-
 valier, I adore you." The Baron, asto-
 nished and surprized, was almost anni-
 hilated at this appellation; but recollect-
 ing himself, was fearful her agitation of
 mind had somewhat disordered her in-
 tellects. To sooth her terror, he fond-
 ly took her in his arms, and was
 going to repeat his vows of everlasting
 love and fidelity, when the door flew
 open with a violent noise, a crowd of
 company rushed in, the shutters were
 opened, the curtains drawn up by an in-
 visible hand, and discovered to the Baron,
 fondly encircled in his arms, his antiqua-
 ted wife in an elegant dishabille, adorned
 with a profusion of rose coloured ribbon.
 Never did the head of Medusa produce
 a more instantaneous petrefaction, or
 form two more expressive statues of sur-
 prise, than those of the husband and

wife, who found themselves so near when they believed themselves so very distant from each other. “ Behold,
 “ Ladies and Gentlemen, (said a wit
 “ of the company) a rare though im-
 “ prudent example of conjugal tender-
 “ nefs in a couple, who, though for
 “ many years united in the closest of all
 “ ties, yet still continue to love with
 “ such passion as to retire even at the
 “ house of a friend, renounce the charms
 “ of an elegant assembly, and find not
 “ any pleasure but in solitude, and the
 “ society of each other.” The laugh
 was universal, except on the part of
 the unfortunate pair, at whose expence it
 was raised; and they retired in confusion
 amidst the jibes and jests of their ac-
 quaintance, whose follies, were they
 equally held up, might perhaps be as
 laughable as those of the present objects
 of their mirth and ridicule.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y VII.

LET us now return to the convent, and see in what manner Mademoiselle D'Urbain passed her time, in a situation so entirely new to her, and the novelty by no means a pleasing one, as there cannot possibly be a greater misfortune to a young female, just flattered into beauty, than to have none but her own sex the insipid witnesses to the improvement of her charms; and the brightest eyes have not the least influence over black veils and white forehead cloths. Mademoiselle D'Urbain had the severe mortification of proving the truth of this assertion; and her usual spirits became so depressed by this total seclusion from the world, that she lost all cheerfulness, health, and appetite, for several weeks; but

but at length a desire of amusement and the love for mischief getting the better of her dejection, she formed a charitable design of diverting herself by tormenting the nuns, and instantly practised every device, art and imagination could suggest; and being secure of the assistance of every boarder in the convent in this laudable undertaking, she committed perpetual thefts and depredations in the fruit garden, till at last her frequent plunders had reduced them to despair; the garden to a desert; and the holy directors of their conscience went sighing home without any prospect of their desert for their summer, or sweetmeats for their winter collation. In short, it would be tedious to enumerate half the whimsical tricks she played them; I shall therefore confine myself to one, as it was of a singular nature, and the poor
nuns

nuns considered it as so truly wicked and abominable, that they concluded it could only have been inspired by the very demon of mischief. Any person who has the least knowledge of the austerities imposed on the nuns who profess exemplary piety, cannot be a stranger to the well-known custom of their assembling once in the week, to give themselves the discipline; and that the hour for this awful ceremony is in the night; the place a large hall; where they are no sooner met together than the lights are put out, and uncovering their shoulders, they wait in solemn silence and mental ejaculation the signal to begin a penance, so entirely repugnant to human nature. One night when they were met on this occasion, and the nuns were executing their penance with a most fervent and astonishing zeal, whilst the blows resounding through the vaulted roof filled the devout soul

with

with holy horror, and made the timid rejoice in darkness, lest the blood trickling from their wounds should shock the eye of humanity; just in the midst of this dreadful scene (when the blows were the loudest, and sighs and groans issued from every sufferer's bosom) on a sudden, to the consternation of all present, several pieces of wax lights, forming a kind of chandelier, were let down at once through a sky light at the top of the hall, by which a mystery, never intended to be revealed, was discovered, and these devout enthusiasts, or rather impostors, were beheld striking the most terrible blows on the walls, pillars, and even on the seats which surrounded them; but their own shoulders untouched. A discovery this, the more distressing, as the secret had been hitherto safely kept, and the convent renowned for sanctity and devotion from its first institution.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y VIII.

HAVING thus disposed of Mademoiselle D'Urbain, the old Baroness began to pass her time more pleasantly, and thought herself so much more attended to by the men than when her rival daughter was present, that she sincerely regretted her residence at the convent could be only temporary; and that her fortune was too large for the Baron to consent to her ever taking the veil: as it was therefore impossible to hope she should ever seclude Mademoiselle D'Urbain entirely from the world, she determined to marry her as soon as possible, to avoid the disagreeable necessity of her again becoming her companion at her return. A change of name would, she flattered herself, render their relationship less

less conspicuous, as it was to be presumed (being both well-bred women) they might then meet in the same parties without ever being suspected to be mother and daughter. Full of this idea, she began to look round on the young men of fashion for a proper husband for Mademoiselle D'Urbain; and hearing from a friend that the Marquis D'Illois intended to marry, she contrived the very next day to have proposals made to him for her daughter. The Marquis having been long the favourite of all those fashionable women whose good graces are the pride of fools, and despised by men of sense, fancied himself wearied in the labyrinth of folly, and was resolved to exchange the flowery bands of love for the adamantine fetters of Hymen: he was not a stranger to the fortune and connections of the Baron, and received these advan-

ces with transport. Mademoiselle D'Urb
bin was likewise, on her part, perfectly
overjoyed when she was informed of the
Baroness her mother's determination:
she had so often talked with her young
companions on marriage, that she longed
very sincerely for the day that would at
once set her at liberty from the convent,
and render her mistress of her own
actions. On the meeting of the Mar-
quis and the Baron, every thing seemed
to concur to favour her wishes; the rent
roll of the Marquis answered every paren-
tal expectation, and the demanded set-
tlement was most readily agreed to on
his part; in short, this important affair
was nearly brought to a conclusion be-
fore they ever recollected that one es-
sential point had been neglected, and
that the future husband and wife
had as yet never seen each other:
this,

this, however, was a trifle easily rectified, as it was impossible either of them could form the least objection to so eligible a plan; for any woman who had youth, beauty, fortune, and novelty, must be approved by the Marquis: and the Baroness well knew her daughter would marry any man for title, equipage, and liberty. It was therefore agreed, by both the Baron and Baroness, that it would be quite sufficient if for form sake the young people were introduced to each other the evening before they were to be united for life.

FOLLY

F O L L Y IX.

THE Marquis D'Illois, to whom the hand of Mademoiselle D'Urbain was destined, resembled, in the mere outlines of his character, most other young noblemen: his fashionable follies were his principal merit; and to ornament his person with taste and elegance, his constant attention and daily study; he frequented every place of public amusement as well as private assembly, and with an air of smiling self-satisfaction, exhibited his dress, rings, snuff-box, and double repeaters, with all the fashionable graces of insignificance; he professed the art of dazzling the understanding by the volubility of his conversation and rapidity of his eloquence; and though he every day repeated the same things on the same subjects,

yet

yet they were uttered so gracefully, and in terms so varied, that those who heard them scarce observed they were but a repetition of what they had heard the day before; he was besides complete master of that rotation of unmeaning words, or fashionable jargon, which may properly be called the technical terms of polite society; yet, in the midst of absurdities and inconsistency, the discerning eye accustomed to read the human heart, might have traced that this was not the real character of the Marquis, and that he was not formed by nature to be the contemptible being he thus strangely affected, but had for his innate principles so much honor, humanity, gratitude, and benevolence, that he was ashamed of his disposition; yet having been early initiated into life, these vulgarities were soon suppressed; and

at the time Mademoiselle D'Urbain was proposed to him, he was become such an adept in dissipation, that he had very few such struggles to combat with; he piqued himself (contradictory as it may appear) on taste and knowledge; but it was impossible to determine what was his peculiar talent; for such were the variety and mutability of his ideas, that the most opposite passions succeeded each other with such an astonishing quickness, that his most intimate friends knew not what was his particular pursuit; each by turns was followed with the utmost eagerness of expectation, and continued till some new caprice influenced all his actions, which were again in turn neglected for others which appeared more new and captivating.

FOLLY

F O L L Y X.

AMIDST these variety of passions, one of the first the Marquis indulged, was for horses; his stables were filled with the finest that could be procured; and if the persons who bought them were deceived in their goodness, at least none cost more: for this he carried so far, that he would much rather mortgage an estate, or sell a farm, than be disappointed in the purchase of a set he took a fancy to: each colour became his favourite by turns; one while none but white were to be admitted into his stud, and then none but the roan; if either of those colours were brought him to purchase, he would instantly determine to be drawn only by those of the most beautiful black: his carriages and harness

ness for elegance, taste and lightness, were the wonder of all Paris; and the astonishing gazers, when they saw them bound along the streets, were lost in admiration at the *tout ensemble* of his splendor and magnificence; and so enraptured was the Marquis with excelling in this particular, that he frequently interrupted his most florid harangues, bright similies, and elegant comparisons, to celebrate the merit of his coach-maker, the neatness of his jockies, and the immense prices of his sadler.

F O L L Y X I.

DOGS (soon after) took place of horses in the Marquis's amusements: besides those destined for the sports of the field, the house was filled with numbers of every other kind, of all sizes, ages, breed, and colours; in short, he might be properly termed the protector and Mæcenas of the canine race: but, to be worthy of admission, they must either have beauty, or be eminently distinguished for some talents; they must either dance, play tricks, present a paw with a graceful air, or have been tutored by the most famous masters in dog education, and then they, in the Marquis's present opinion, surpassed in humour and entertainment the most celebrated

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brated wits ; and the owners who could procure him dogs not larger than a kitten, with ears touching the ground, and eyes buried in a forest of long hair, might command any price of him ; and if they barked in harmony, or knew how to growl a tolerable tenor, they were considered by him as invaluable.

F O L L Y XII.

THIS pursuit was soon succeeded by another, which now engaged the whole time and attention of the Marquis, and he employed himself in collecting and arranging a great number of butterflies, with the most unwearied assiduity; and, at a considerable expence, was so fortunate as to obtain a number sufficient to fill two large elegant glass cases, forming the sides of a cabinet in so pleasing a manner, that the curious eye wandered with pleasure over so beautiful an assemblage of colours. Here the delighted Marquis passed whole days in contemplating with rapture those wings which displayed all the different hues and lustre of the rainbow; he admired the wonderful productions of nature, equally perfect

in

in her minutest work, and exact in the scale of insect as animal creation. I will not pretend to aver that these were absolutely the reflections of the Marquis; but certain it is, he might have made these and many others, since he passed whole hours, and even days, shut up with his darling butterflies; and so strong were their influence on the force of his imagination, that he thought of nothing but butterflies—talked only on butterflies; and so partial was he, that he even found out likenesses between several of his most favourite friends and butterflies, and never, since he had been blessed with ideas, had the Marquis formed a more just comparison.

F O L L Y XIII.

THE wonderful cabinet, with the wonderful butterflies, soon disappeared, and a taste for old china and Indian figures occasioned their being wholly forgotten; and the door-cases, chimney-pieces, and every cornish in the house of the Marquis, were now decorated like that of an English East India captain, after making his third voyage; and the more frightful and extraordinary the figures, the higher were they held in the esteem of this most variable and eccentric of mankind.

F O L L Y XIV.

THE Marquis on a sudden determined his house should at one *coup d'œil* give an idea of the greatness and magnificence of its owner; for this purpose he resolved to new furnish it entirely, and that in the most expensive and fashionable stile: his glassés were superb, and the sofas, commodes, tables, and arm-chairs, were each a masterpiece of different kinds, of the most elegant workmanship; whole rooms might have been moderately supplied with furniture for the price of each separate article. Nothing can give an adequate idea of the richness and beauty of the apartments, unless the fancied habitations of the fairies and genii; every ornament, taste, luxury and

C 4 imagination

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imagination could invent, were united with superior elegance and variety; and whilst the pencils of the most eminent masters embellished the cielings, gold and azure seemed only to be used as mere shades to set off the resplendent brightness of the colours.

FOLLY

F O L L Y XV.

THE hotel of the Marquis was scarce become the admiration and envy of all Paris, before it was entirely abandoned by him, and the furniture sold for a sixth of the value; yet this arose not from any pecuniary disappointment or derangement in his affairs, but he had altered his plan of life, and chose to live in the country. “ The beautiful object
 “ of unadorned nature (said he) is the
 “ only one that can be long agreeable to
 “ a sensible mind: man, confined with-
 “ in the walls of a city, can only be said
 “ to vegetate in a splendid prison, and
 “ scarcely enjoy the light of the sun. I
 “ am determined to quit this dissipated
 “ herd of unthinking mortals, and en-
 “ joy in a pure and clear sky that calm

“ tranquility for which we were originally designed.” With this intention he went immediately to one of his seats, a considerable distance from Paris, and passed a whole week in solitude; at length he with pleasure observed, how greatly his retreat might be embellished by taste; he employed a great number of workmen, and in a short time the *parterre* took a new form from a plan drawn by himself; forests were destroyed, and laid down into lawns; every day the rusticks beheld the most astonishing revolutions; mountains were transformed into dales, and vallies into rivers; after these were finished, the culture of his garden became his study; with a spade in his hand, he would endeavour to vie in strength with the most robust labourer; but the delicacy of his constitution was ill adapted to support fatigue; he

was

was soon obliged to give up the active part, and amuse himself with the culture of flowers; but the perfume of the rose, the fairness of the lily, the enamel of the pink; or modest sweetness of the jessamine, had not any charms for him; he prized only tulips variegated to a frightful degree, or other flowers of great price, which might be deemed monsters in nature from their ugliness and scarcity, and were too costly to be gathered, and too void of scent and beauty to be worn.

F O L L Y XVI.

THE approach of winter, or rather an alteration of sentiment, induced the Marquis to revisit Paris, which he had quitted so lately with such abhorrence ; but the deprivation of pleasures had reconciled him to the enjoyment of them, and the rapid movement of his chaise wheels scarce kept time with his impatience. “ How melancholy (said the Marquis) is the life of a human being in the country, without friends, without that social intercourse which alone can render time supportable—time, which in solitude is the greatest of all tyrants, since there, it seems immortal without a possibility of killing it ; but in Paris, whole days pass away unperceived, merely in the engaging pleasure

“ pleasure of seeing and being seen,
 “ whilst reflection is lost in the whirl
 “ of amusement, and we are spared the
 “ insufferable fatigue of thinking, which
 “ is intolerable.” The Marquis con-
 tinued his mental soliloquy, much in the
 same manner, till he found himself in
 one of the principal streets of Paris; he
 passed a great number of new elegant
 carriages, but was infinitely surprised
 when the coachmen, who drove them,
 nodded to him, with the familiarity of
 old acquaintance; at length one carriage
 more particularly attracted his eye from
 the brilliancy of its appearance and sin-
 gularity of make; as it passed the cha-
 rioteer addressd him with, “ Good mor-
 “ row, Marquis; where the devil have
 “ you been for these thousand years?
 “ You see I am become a very tolerable
 “ coachman; I ———” he would have
 proceeded,

proceeded, but a stone caught the wheel and overturned the carriage: humanity prompted the Marquis to stop and enquire whether he was hurt, but how was he surprised to find on a nearer examination the coachman to be the Duke of ***, who by this accident had dislocated one of his limbs, and was covered with bruises; the Marquis gazed on him with astonishment, perfectly at a loss to comprehend the reason of this metamorphose; and as it may seem rather extraordinary to the reader, it will be necessary to premise, that during the six months voluntary exile of the Marquis, many had been the fashionable revolutions in carriages, and, amidst their absurdities, the young men had adopted that of coachmanship; for this purpose one of them invented a carriage, to which (by way of describing its excellence and singularity in one word)

he

he gave the name of a devil: in the body of this machine were generally two servants lolling at their ease, whilst the master drove on a seat placed in front. The Marquis was no sooner informed that so pleasing a science was become necessary to finish the education of a fine gentleman, than it became his wish to perfect himself in the art immediately; and lest the world should suppose him dwindled into a sober, dull country gentleman, he instantly bespoke the most elegant devil that had been seen; took lessons from the most expert of his coachmen, and by dint of genius and assiduity, in less than a fortnight, drove the devil himself through all the streets in Paris; and it is ever to be lamented that the swiftness and velocity with which it passed, prevented a perfect sight of so graceful a coachman, for all must have

have been charmed with the martial air with which he held the reins ; two tall fellows, with variegated feathers in their hats, were seated in the back, whilst the Marquis in front with an amazing *bouquet*, drest in every particular like the personage he meant to represent, excited the speed of his horses by the crack of his whip, and the most coachman-like language, proud of his appearance as a Roman Emperor in a triumphal procession. The great skill and wonderful address of the Marquis became the topic of general conversation, and talents so distinguished drove all the inferior phætons to despair.

FOLLY

F O L L Y XVII.

THIS general ardour for fame which seemed to threaten the entire expulsion of the ancient society of coachmen, subsided in a short time, and the young nobility once more permitted them to resume their seats unmolested, and only reserved to themselves the privilege of displacing on particular occasions: this cessation gave the Marquis leisure to discover an accomplishment he was before unconscious he possessed, which was great taste for antiquities of all kinds, but medals and statues in particular; he applauded himself on his discernment, and prepared to indulge this passion in the fullest extent, by the purchase of several of those old blocks of marble which pass under the denomination of mutilated statues;

tues; and if he could procure those without either arms, legs, or even head, he was easily persuaded to believe them treasures formed by the chissel of the great masters of sculpture: he filled drawers with a vast quantity of medals collected at great expence, and spared not any cost to obtain scarce coins; but as the most laudable endeavours do not always ensure success, it frequently happened that those medals for which the Marquis had given large sums, proved on the inspection of the real virtuosi, to be nothing more than old brass and copper counters, which having been for years neglected and treated by their owners with contempt, were almost entirely defaced; and as they hardly retained any impression, were supposed by the Marquis to have been struck in the reign of some of the first Emperors of Rome.

FOLLY

F O L L Y XVIII.

AMIDST such grave and wise researches into the annals of antiquity, and honoured with the society of men of the most profound erudition, it is next to a miracle the Marquis had sufficient leisure to form a design to marry ; but though surrounded with monuments of antient grandeur (in all that magnificence of decay, which renders them so interesting to a man of taste) he found still something wanting to complete his happiness, therefore resolved to unite the blooming modern to the *vért antique*, and though personally a stranger to Mademoiselle D'Urbain, he was transported with the idea of possessing a bride adorned both with beauty and the gifts of fortune ; and so strongly was his imagination impressed with the felicity he should enjoy in the married state, that
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the antient beauty, Poppea, soon lost her charms: he ceased to be the faithful platonic adorer of Julia, Plautina, and Cleopatra, and neglected all those Othos which had cost him so dear. A very unexpected accident, however, prevented the completion of his wishes, owing to the old Baroness, who suddenly discovered he was too amiable for a son in law, and who admired his fine taste in dress, his talent for repartee, and the graces of his figure, till she conceived the most violent passion for him; and the fear of losing the object of her tenderness so far prevailed, that she on different pretences delayed his introduction to her daughter, and even endeavoured to persuade the Marquis that Mademoiselle D'Urbain was too young to be a wife, though at other times, to disguise her own age, she strongly affirmed that herself was much younger when she became a mother.

FOLLY

F O L L Y XIX.

THE Marquis might well be astonished when he heard the Baroness give this reason for declining a match first proposed at her own request; but Monsieur D'Illois, being tolerably conversant in the caprices of fine ladies, and judging the Baroness might be of a disposition variable as his own, he concluded so absurd an objection would not be a lasting one, and therefore redoubled his assiduity and attention to the old lady, in hopes of regaining her favour. The Baroness, who saw him chearful under this delay, imputed it to an indifference to matrimony, or an attachment elsewhere, and though she would not have been displeased on being certain it was the first, yet she was fired with jealousy on the supposition

supposition that it might be the second; she therefore placed spies on the conduct and actions of the Marquis, learnt all his engagements, and with whom; and as it so happened (just at that time) found it impossible to discover the least partiality to any particular object; from this, and the respect and politeness with which he treated her, she believed herself the object of his affection, and waited the declaration of his passion with impatience, and generously determined not to drive such a lover to despair; in consequence of this resolution she one day when they were *tête à tête*, made him such extraordinary advances as could not be mistaken; and the Marquis being fond of a frolic, it is impossible to say how far his love of the marvellous might have induced him to proceed, had he not recollected that his complaisance for the mother would raise
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an inseparable barrier to his alliance with the daughter; he therefore muttered a few incoherent words, and abruptly retired in confusion, and left the Baroness in such a rage that she could have killed him; tears at length came to her relief, and the return of her reason made her see the necessity of concealing both her resentment and the cause of it from the world.

FOLLY

F O L L Y XX.

THE Marquis still earnestly wishing the alliance to take place, ventured to present himself at the Baron's a few days after, hoping his abrupt departure was by that time either forgot or forgiven: Madam D'Urbain, who did not expect he would dare to appear before her, reddened, and turned pale alternately with anger and surprise; the Marquis would not seem to observe her emotion, but attempting to take her hand, "Lovely Baroneſs" (ſaid he) "how
 "cruel were you to put my conſtancy
 "to ſo ſevere a trial, a temptation too
 "great for any one to reſiſt, unleſs his
 "heart were guarded like mine with the
 "idea of your beautiful daughter, whom
 "my fancy delights to paint the exact
 reſem-

“ resemblance of yourself, and let me
 “ caution you against so dangerous a
 “ test for the future, as to see you and
 “ adore you are the same.” This flat-
 tery, far from producing the effect in-
 tended by the Marquis, encreased the
 anger of the Baroness; “ Cease, Sir,”
 said she, “ from this moment, your un-
 “ availing pretensions to Mademoiselle
 “ D’Urbain, for be assured I never will
 “ give my consent to this union; spare
 “ yourself therefore unnecessary trouble:
 “ this is my final determination, and
 “ the last visit I will ever receive from
 “ you on this or any other subject.”

She then left him without deigning to
 listen to his entreaties, and the Marquis
 retired, fully convinced that he had not
 at present the least prospect of making
 his peace.

F O L L Y XXI.

THE Marquis, to divert his chagrin, one day took up an old worm-eaten book, which was a dissertation on the art of making gold; and the whole process appeared to him so clearly illustrated, and the method so exactly explained, that being entirely satisfied in himself that the transmutation of metals might be by dint of application obtained, he resolved to become an alchymist, and therefore furnished a laboratory the following week, filled it with crucibles, a furnace, &c. and worked in it from morning to night with the most indefatigable industry; he rose each morning with the dawn in full hopes that he should on that day accomplish his grand design, and though he retired to rest disappointed, yet constantly

stantly believed the succeeding one would certainly prove more fortunate to his wishes; but vain were his endeavours, for though he exactly kept up the fire to the due degree of heat, the lead (to his utter astonishment) far from becoming gold, remained mere lead, or what was still worse, was reduced to nothing: the Marquis did not however despair, but attributed his ill success to want of skill, and when so great an end was to be obtained, determined not to be discouraged by a few disappointments; to reward his perseverance, at last, the long expected signs appeared, which proved incontestibly that the vilest of all metals was on the point of becoming gold; trembling and agitated his heart palpitated with joy; he took the boiling liquor from the fire that it might condense in a proper manner, and watched it with the eyes of

eager attention and anxiety; but just as it was on the point of perfection, a servant came in hastily to acquaint him, a stranger requested with the utmost earnestness to speak to him immediately; the Marquis, vexed to be interrupted in a moment of such consequence, turned about angrily to reprove the fellow for his intrusion, and with his elbow threw down the vase which contained his long wished for treasure: when he saw this precious liquor on the floor, who can describe his rage! he absolutely tore his hair, wrung his hands, and only recovered the use of speech to bestow curses and imprecations on the trembling cause of all this mischief, who terrified by his menaces, retired in hopes of escaping the fury of his incensed master.

F O L L Y XXII.

THE loud anger and reproaches of the Marquis were overheard by the person whose desire of admission had been the cause of this misfortune, and who finding from this altercation he had lost all probability of being introduced in a proper manner, entered hastily without any introduction at all, and approaching the Marquis with great gravity; “Con-
 “ sole yourself (said he) I come to re-
 “ pair your loss; that treasure you are
 “ seeking with such labour and expence
 “ I already possess.” At these words the Marquis grew more calm. “ Is it
 “ then possible (said he to the philoso-
 “ pher) that I really behold the happy
 “ master of so miraculous a science?
 “ I am, indeed, (returned the stranger)

“ the real possessor of those wonderful
 “ powers of chymistry, the philosophers
 “ stone, the water of immortality, and
 “ a thousand other secrets equally sur-
 “ prising, such as the quadrature of the
 “ circle, the long sought for longitude,
 “ and the perpetual motion; all which I
 “ shall not scruple hereafter to discover
 “ to you, but shall at present confine
 “ myself to the object of your pursuit,
 “ the art of making gold, which the
 “ vulgar and prophane look upon as a
 “ chimera, but the more enlarged mind
 “ of the philosopher is conscious of its
 “ reality; enabled from study to develope
 “ the operations of nature, he knows
 “ that it is fabricated every hour in the
 “ bowels of the earth, and thus it is
 “ equally certain, that this precious me-
 “ tal is composed of other metals, meta-
 “ morphosed into gold by a simple trans-

“ transmutation : let therefore a man but
 “ once become acquainted with the de-
 “ gree of heat with which nature changes
 “ lead and iron into gold, and nothing
 “ can be easier or more simple than
 “ being master of the power of doing it
 “ when he pleases, and becoming pos-
 “ sessed of the riches of the universe ;
 “ and that I have made this discovery, I
 “ will now prove to you beyond a possi-
 “ bility of doubt.” Having ended this

long harangue, of the truth of which the
 Marquis seemed perfectly convinced ;
 (indeed, how could he possibly be other-
 wise, after hearing it so clearly and phi-
 losophically demonstrated ?) the learned
 stranger took a small crucible, and put-
 ting it on the furnace, he filled it with
 lead, and when that was melted, he put
 in a small quantity of yellow powder ;
 “ This powder (said he to the Marquis,

“ who surveyed him with the utmost at-
 “ tention) is transmuted gold, one single
 “ grain of which to change all this lead
 “ to gold, since it is, as I may say, the
 “ first principle or seed of that precious
 “ metal, which by fermentation takes
 “ from iron and lead the grosser parti-
 “ cles, purifies and dissolves the matter
 “ which encloses it, and prevents it
 “ from appearing what it really is.” As
 he spoke he kept shaking the furnace,
 and soon after reversing the crucible on
 the coals, he ordered the Marquis to
 take it up; he obeyed with great alacrity,
 and found at the bottom an ingot of pure
 gold; he surveyed it accurately, and cer-
 tain of its reality he fell at the feet of the
 alchymist; “ Great philosopher (said he)
 “ I am lost in wonder! how great is
 “ the extent of your knowledge! the
 “ riches of all nature are your own!”

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The appearance of the stranger, however, but ill corresponded with so extensive a power; for his hair uncombed and unpowdered hung quite strait over his ears, whilst a thread-bare coat that had once been black, reached down in tatters to his heels. “ I am resolved
 “ (said he to the Marquis, raising him
 “ with great gravity) to augment your fortune so considerably, that you shall
 “ enjoy every wish of your heart;
 “ live in a state of pleasure and magnificence, and be enabled to relieve every
 “ distressed object without suffering the
 “ least pecuniary inconvenience: for
 “ this purpose I will teach you the art
 “ of making this powder; but as it is
 “ composed of many scarce and valuable
 “ ingredients, which cannot be procured
 “ by any one but myself, (and happening through indolence to have neglected

“ lected to supply myself with a sum
 “ sufficient) I must request you to ad-
 “ vance fifty louis for the purchase
 “ of them, and I will be here early
 “ in the morning with every thing pro-
 “ per for our purpose; but great secrecy
 “ will be required in this affair, lest we
 “ excite the covetous disposition of men
 “ to envy our success.” The Marquis,
 in the transport of his heart, pulled out
 his purse, and with the most boundless
 confidence gave him an hundred instead
 of fifty louis, and passed the whole sleep-
 less night in reflecting on his imaginary
 riches; he rose with impatience at the
 break of day, and waited with the ut-
 most anxiety the return of the philoso-
 pher, who most probably, by the aid
 of the liberality of the Marquis, passed
 his time much more agreeably, and in-
 deed so much to his satisfaction, that he
 never

never returned any more, and Monsieur D'Illois was at length constrained to acknowledge, that he had been the dupe of a designing knave, who had imposed on his credulity by the mere common trick of a juggler, who had adroitly placed the gold under the crucible when he overturned it.

F O L L Y XXIII.

THE rage of the old Baroness, and her agitation of mind on the neglect of the Marquis, threw her into a fever, which heightened by a constant attendance on public diversions and other places of dissipation, made so great a progress in a few days, that three of the most eminent physicians tried every art in vain to restore her to health, and prevent the fatal consequence they feared would ensue; but their want of success in this case is not to be wondered at, since it is necessary to know the cause of complaint before it is possible to effect a cure; and much wiser men than themselves might have puzzled a long time before they ever suspected love to be the occasion of it.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y XXIV.

THE disorder of the Baroness made so rapid a progress, that on the fifth day there were no longer any hopes of her life; and she soon after was seized with a delirium, during which she called repeatedly on the name of the Marquis, sometimes earnestly requesting to see him, and a few minutes after desiring her attendants to keep him from her sight. They were astonished that Monsieur D'Illois alone should be constantly present to her disturbed imagination, yet looked upon her anxiety, on his account, as the mere wandering of fancy, joined to inquietude at the absence of her future son-in-law; whilst the Baron, who thought himself infinitely more sagacious, (whilst in fact he was infinitely more mistaken) wisely concluded that it proceeded from the
regret

regret which she now entertained for having broke off the treaty of marriage between the Marquis and Mademoiselle D'Urbín; and so convinced was he of the truth of this supposition, that on the first appearance of returning reason, he made a point of not only giving her the most solemn assurance, that as soon as she was recovered, he would learn the true cause of the Marquis absenting himself from their house, (being an entire stranger to what had passed between him and Madame D'Urbín), but also generously repeated his promise that he would fulfil the contract, and introduce him immediately to his daughter. These protestations, far from calming the mind of the Baroness, filled her mind with rage and despair; she endeavoured in vain to articulate an absolute denial, but was seized with convulsions, and soon after expired.

FOLLY

F O L L Y XXV.

THE Marquis heard the death of Madame D'Urbain with surprize, but was so far from suspecting he had in the smallest degree contributed to her disorder, that he was astonished at hearing she had so frequently mentioned his name: the philosopher having compleatly disgusted him with alchymy, he deterined to renew his acquaintance with the Baron, and obtain, if possible, the hand of his daughter. Monsieur D'Urbain received him with great politeness, and even appeared extremely pleased that Mademoiselle D'Urbain was still the object of his wishes; he promised him their union should take place as soon as decency would permit the celebration of their nuptials; but the apparent sincerity of these

these professions (which by no means were intended to be speedily performed) was only meant to silence the present importunity of the Marquis; for every moment of the Baron's time was at this period devoted to a beautiful widow, who engrossed his time so entirely, that he had neither leisure nor inclination to attend to the desire the Marquis shewed to be introduced to his daughter; and Monsieur D'Illois, finding he was obliged to conform to this delay made under pretence of respect to form and ceremony, was determined once more to wait with patience the result of the Baron's caprice.

FOLLY

F O L L Y XXVI.

WHILST the Marquis waited for his promised introduction to Mademoiselle D'Urbain, he became a constant attendant on theatrical representations, read all the fashionable productions, and formed an acquaintance with some of the most celebrated wits in the midst of this brilliant society: a ray of genius illumined the mind of the Marquis, he felt the inspiration, and found that nature had certainly formed him for a poet. Overjoyed at the discovery, he obeyed the impulse, and wrote a great number of lines full, I may say, of imaginary sentiment and dullness. Ambitious to render his name immortal, he disdained prose and wrote only in verse; and the whole circle of his dearest friends, declared his productions the best that ever were written.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y XXVII.

THE Marquis now became fond of that society only whom he thought the most competent judges of the merit of his poetical abilities; he assembled a number of authors, who met twice a week to sit in judgment on his productions, and partake of a much better repast at his table, than that of Apollo and the nine muses afforded; his hospitality was, however, well repaid by the complaisance of his guests, who unanimously declared his verses to be more sublime and elegant than any of those of Voltaire or Boileau; and the hall where they dined constantly echoed with the praises they so liberally bestowed on their noble patron, who listened with pleasure to their adulation, whilst he loudly declared

clared his detestation of flattery; and the *beaux esprits*, magnificently treated with the most exquisite dishes, and enlivened by a variety of delicious wines, did not fail, after every repast, to proclaim the wit of the Marquis, and retail his *bon-mots* in every company they frequented. This reputation was purchased, it is true, rather expensively, as some of these select friends, not content with enjoying the privilege of his table, prevailed on him now and then to open his purse to relieve their necessities, and had the art to make him pay, with usury, for the falsehoods, interest or politeness obliged them to utter. The Marquis most cheerfully complied with their demands, assenting, in his heart, very sincerely to that adage of the philosopher, which says, "Truth cannot be bought too dear."

F O L L Y XXVIII.

AS it is absolutely necessary for an author of quality to have an elegant library, Monsieur D'Illois bought a great number of books of the most scarce and valuable editions, had them bound in Morocco, superbly gilt, and arranged in the most classical regularity in elegant book-cases, which covered the walls of a very large apartment; whilst glass doors and gold net-work prevented the hands of the curious from contaminating the well-bound volumes; and so careful was the Marquis to preserve them in their original lustre and beauty, that he constantly either borrowed or hired the books he wished to read, rather than run the risque of using his own. As he was one day amusing himself with meditating on
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the universality and extent of his abilities, an author sent in an humble request to be introduced to him: since Monsieur D'Illois had commenced professed wit, any man of letters found him very easy of access, he therefore ordered that he should be instantly admitted, and received him with great politeness. Encouraged by the condescension of the Marquis, the stranger drew from his pocket an immense roll of paper, and begged he might have the honour of reading to him a small attempt, which he submitted to his superior judgment. Any person but the Marquis would have trembled at the proposition, and the sight of such an enormous manuscript; but as letters were at this time his darling passion, he was pleased at the proposal; scarce had he given his permission, when the poet began a tragedy in five acts, entitled the

“ Siege

“Siege of Troy; he read it with great emphasis and action, accompanied with an air of self-applause, with a smile at the end of each metaphor, and a look directed towards the Marquis, where he thought the passage demanded approbation; yet, however great the inclination of the Marquis to appear attentive, at the end of the third scene of the first act he fell asleep, in spite of all his endeavours to prevent it, but still waked at intervals, crying, “Bravo! bravo!” and then had the goodness to apologize for shutting his eyes, by saying “He found that it strengthened his attention.” He waked time enough just to hear the catastrophe, and addressing himself to the author, “I admire (said he) “your tragedy, and it cannot fail of “being well received, for your scenes are “well decorated, your characters are all “kings and heroes, and must therefore “be

" be magnificently dressed; there are a
 " crowd of guards, a number of priests,
 " a long procession, impassioned lovers,
 " and striking attitudes, all these make
 " up the sublimity and stage effect which
 " constitutes the absolute perfection of
 " modern tragedy; and I will pawn my
 " honour on your success."

FOLLY

F O L L Y XXIX.

“ A LAS! my Lord, (said the au-
 “ thor with a sigh) such is the
 “ partiality and insolence of managers,
 “ and the general depravation of taste,
 “ that the merit of a piece is not suffi-
 “ ent to ensure its reception at the thea-
 “ tre; for unless it also meets with the
 “ approbation of the players, it is impos-
 “ sible to get it played, however great
 “ the abilities of the author: in fine,
 “ my Lord, the stage can never arrive to
 “ any degree of perfection so long as it
 “ is to be influenced by so strong a par-
 “ tiality; managers ought not to be per-
 “ mitted to take their choice, and select
 “ public representations according to
 “ their own caprice; on the contrary,
 “ they ought to be under so wise a regu-
 “ lation,

“ lation, that they should be obliged to
“ get up every piece presented to them,
“ and let it be fairly judged of by an au-
“ dience, whose verdict is generally a
“ just one; and if you will honour me
“ with your protection so far as once to
“ get it on the stage, I have not the
“ least fear of meeting with favour and
“ even applause from the awful senate of
“ the people, who, I doubt not, will
“ be extremely propitious to a tragedy
“ like mine.”

F O L L Y XXX.

FLATTERED by this application, the Marquis determined to write a letter of recommendation for the poet to the manager, desiring him as a favour to receive the piece: the deference and respect due to the rank of Monsieur D'Illois procured the tragedy an immediate reading, rehearsal, and representation, in preference to the productions of some unfortunate authors, who had waited five or six seasons the event of the manager's promises; and no sooner was it known how very successful the application of the Marquis had been, than eleven authors attended his levee in the course of the following week, with not less than two or three dramatic productions each, the merit, of which, doubtless, at least equalled that he had so openly patronized.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y XXXI.

THE tragedy of the Siege of Troy was soon after performed before a brilliant audience, but who not happening (like the Marquis) to fall asleep, and wake only in the proper places, found it a very detestable exhibition, hissed the two first acts entirely through, and refused to hear the remainder. Monsieur D'Illois returned home extremely mortified at the ill success of the tragedy, for he had conceived that his having espoused the cause of the poet was sufficient, not only to have rescued the piece from condemnation, but have made it fashionable both to see and approve it: chagrined by this disappointment, he resolved never more to expose himself to so severe a mortification, and instantly shut his doors against every member of his literary so-

ciety; declared publickly that reading and writing gave him the head ach, and were too laborious for the nerves of a man of fashion; strictly commanded the Swiss not only positively never to admit the unfortunate author, but to deny him absolutely to every shabby-looking man with an humble address and insinuating tone, whose pockets appeared to be full of paper; having thus given up every idea of writing either in verse or prose, he took such a dislike to his library that all those beautiful volumes which had so lately been purchased at such an immoderate expence, were sold for less than half price; an event which seldom happens, at least during the life of the purchaser.

FOLLY

F O L L Y XXXII.

IN the short period of time in which the Marquis was a *bel esprit*, he formed an intimacy with a young man of fashion called the Chevalier de Croud, his fortune was large, but his prodigality still greater, and he affected the character of being generous to a most extravagant degree; he piqued himself (like Monsieur D'Illois) on being a genius, and an admirer of the arts and sciences: in short, a similarity of sentiment, passions, and follies rendered them in a short time inseparable.



F O L L Y XXXIII.

DURING the course of their intimacy, the Marquis was frequently admitted to the elegant *petits soupers* given by the Chevalier to a few friends, and a mistress on whom he doated; the beauty who held him a willing captive in her chains, was the celebrated Madame De T***, more famous for the multiplicity of her lovers than her charms; she never was satisfied with less than the entire ruin of those who professed themselves attached to her; and so extremely expeditious was she in accelerating it, that few financiers could afford to keep her more than a month; yet so fashionable was it to possess her, for even a short time, that many young men purchased that honour with their whole fortune. One might be led to suppose,

suppose, from the folly of her admirers, that she had at least the short-lived perfection of being a finished beauty; but she had many personal defects: her eyes were much too small, and only attractive from their lustre; her mouth so large it would have been absolutely disgusting had it not been ornamented with a very beautiful set of teeth; she was large in her shape, and too fat to have the least pretensions to grace, but had a freedom and boldness in her manner, which her admirers dignified with the name of vivacity; her complexion was fair, her hands and arms tolerably white, and so small as not to be in proportion to the rest of her figure, which formed a singular, (and, by no means, a pleasing) contrast with the thickness of her waist; her wit consisted in a few satirical comparisons, and a sufficient share of art to deceive

those who were credulous enough to place confidence in her. The accomplishments of this amiable female were limited to humming a few passionate songs; the most perfect comprehension of a *double entendre*, and in writing letters of tenderness or disdain as best suited her purpose and the disposition of the lover she meant to deceive.

FOLLY

F O L L Y XXXIV.

THE Chevalier De Croud was ever eloquent in the praises of his beloved De T***. "Love (said he to the Marquis) is the source of my happiness; I adore the charming Flora, and will never quit her whilst I have life." The Marquis answered not a word, but was pensive and confused: from the time he had been introduced to this Syren, he became melancholy and unhappy; the Chevalier observed some secret uneasiness preyed upon his mind, and pressed him to disclose it, with all the earnestness of friendship, but in vain, 'till at length overcome by repeated persuasion, and wearied by importunity, he confessed that he was enamoured with the beautiful Flora: the Chevalier surprized, now be-

came thoughtful in turn, and left the Marquis without saying a word. Three or four days elapsed without their meeting at any of the places at which they were accustomed to see each other; and though Monsieur D'Illois had frequently, during that space of time, called on the Chevalier, he was never so fortunate as to meet with him at home. On the fourth morning he came to the Marquis, "Forgive me, my dear friend, (said De Croud) I have been much indisposed, and had given my Swiss general orders to be denied to every one, yet never once supposed he could be so very stupid as to imagine those orders could possibly extend to you. Shall I request the favour of you to present this letter to Flora; I entrust her to your care, my friend, as I am unexpectedly obliged to set out immediately for Versailles."

He

He was no sooner gone than the Marquis flew on the wings of love to execute this commission ; when he had delivered the letter, the nymph who supposed it contained nothing more than vows of constancy, and an eulogium on her charms, broke the seal and read aloud the following lines to the astonished Marquis :

“ THE pleasures I have received
 “ since the commencement of our
 “ attachment, have encreased, not diminished my passion, and each returning
 “ day augmented your charms and my
 “ desires ; yet still adoring to excess my
 “ dearest Flora, I am constrained to resign you at the very time that my
 “ heart is a slave to the fondest and
 “ truest affection ; but the Marquis
 “ adores you, he has declared his passion
 “ to me, and that on your possession de-

" pends the future happiness of his life.
 " That I may no longer be an obstacle
 " to the wishes of my friend, I release
 " you from your engagement to me, re-
 " store you to yourself, and conjure you
 " to listen to the terms the Marquis has
 " to propose; and if his offers are not
 " equal to your expectation, let me
 " know, and I will make any addition
 " that will prevail on you to bless him
 " with the transports you have bestowed
 " on the

Chevalier de Croud."

" Is it possible (cried the Marquis) can
 " the Chevalier's generosity so far pre-
 " vail as to resign his lovely mistress for
 " the sake of his friend?" He then fell
 on his knees before the divinity (who
 being convinced she should not be a loser
 by

by the exchange) listened with smiles of condescension to the avowal of his passion, extended her beautiful hand towards him, permitted him to kiss it with transport, and seemed perfectly disposed to pay an implicit obedience to the injunctions of the Chevalier.

FOLLY

F O L L Y XXXV.

EQUALLY charmed with each other, the terms of the Marquis were quickly agreed to, and he had the satisfaction to find that this change of lovers was not only perfectly agreeable to the fair Flora, but received from her the most sacred assurances that she had long wished that such an event might take place, as he had, from the very first moment she saw him, inspired her with sensations she had never before experienced for any man. Overjoyed by this very unexpected declaration, he offered her a *carte blanche* of his whole fortune, which she would doubtless have been glad to accept, had she not (very fortunately for Monsieur d'Illois) thought it most prudent, with so generous a lover, to play off
the

the masked batteries of sentimental love and disinterested affection; however, the present exigency of her affairs (much, she declared, against her inclination) obliged her to stipulate for a hundred louis next morning, and the same sum to be regularly paid every month, without including jewels or other presents; the first month to be advanced with the hundred she was to receive the next day. These conditions were cheerfully assented to by the Marquis; and the lady's generosity and confidence in his honour was such, that she gave credit to his promise of paying the money the next morning, and permitted him to pass the night in her apartment.

THE Marquis did not return home 'till noon, and then made a point of instantly discharging the debt he had contracted; he therefore gave two hundred louis to the valet, whom he honoured with his confidence, and ordered him to carry them directly to Madame de T***. The person entrusted with this commission, was a tall, well-made young man of twenty-three, with all the ruddy graces of youth, and by no means a novice in gallantry; he had often seen this celebrated toast, and found her so much to his taste, that he had frequently envied those who could afford to purchase her good graces; but as there was not the least probability that he should ever be rich enough to obtain the smallest share of

of her favour, he had hitherto very wisely kept his wishes a secret: opportunity now, however, seemed to smile upon him, and he resolved to execute a very bold design; he dressed his hair in the most fashionable and becoming style, put on one of the Marquis's most elegant suits, and with the airs of a man of the first distinction, went in a chair to the house of the charmer, and was announced as a stranger of quality, who had a secret of importance to communicate to Madame De T***; the lady was too well used to such kind of confidential friends, not to readily guess what he wished to impart, and granted his Lordship an immediate audience; and the Valet de Chambre was introduced, who being really handsome, played the enraptured nobleman with so much art, offered the two hundred louis with

with so much grace, and so very *à propos*, that few such ladies could have resisted the temptation. Flora confessed herself captivated at first sight by his personal attractions, and the fortunate *Jasmin* had no longer reason to envy Monsieur D'Illois.

FOLLY

F O L L Y XXXVII.

WHILST thus the Valet was at once enjoying the triumph of possessing his mistress, and deceiving his master, Flora was calculating that the two hundred louis she had thus unexpectedly obtained, would make four when added to those the Marquis had promised to send her in a few hours: these were their different ideas, when her maid ran hastily into the room, and told her that Monsieur D'Illois was coming up the stairs. Never was any woman more embarrassed than the faithful Flora: how was it possible she could conduct herself with propriety in so critical a situation, between the two lovers? The stranger, from his magnificent present, was certainly

tainly intitled to be treated with respect; and from the brilliant promises of the Marquis, she had every thing to hope; and if either convicted her of infidelity, she might lose both; she therefore addressed herself to his Lordship, and requested, with the most earnest intreaties, he would deign to hide himself under the bed, lest he should be perceived by a jealous coxcomb, who tormented her with his caresses, but who had long been the object of her dislike, though she was for particular reasons obliged to disguise her hatred. The poor Valet, who wished to be hid from his master as much as she could possibly wish to conceal him, crept hastily under the bed, extremely glad that she had given him so fair an opportunity to escape the fury of the Marquis; and Flora, relieved from her fears, met

Monsieur

Monfieur D'Illois with the utmoft gaiety, embraced him with every demonftration of the moft ardent affection; and the happy Marquis had not the leaft doubt but his perfections had infpired the bofom of this celebrated beauty with real and difinterefted love.

FOLLY

F O L L Y XXXVIII.

THE artful blandishments of Flora, increased the passion of her credulous admirer; but unfortunately in the midst of their endearments, she pretended to fear she had more reason to attribute this visit to his punctuality in bringing the two hundred louis, rather than a proof of his affection. "What!" (cried the astonished Marquis) can it "be possible that you have not yet received them?" Flora imagined this denial to be a jest; but when she found that he still persisted that he had sent them directly on his return home, she changed colour, grew seriously angry, and accused him of making use of a poor pretence to avoid paying it all. The Marquis, fired with rage at being supposed capable

capable of so mean a subterfuge, rose from his seat, and traversed the chamber with an air of distraction. He at length conceived his servant must have robbed him; and whilst he resolved in his mind what method to take, he cast his eyes now towards the cieling, now on the floor, without observing any particular object, till at last he happened to fix them near the bed, and distinctly perceived the foot of a man, who wore a very fine buckle: at this sight he became immoveable, and his blood seemed to freeze in his veins with surprize.

FOLLY

F O L L Y XXXIX.

“GOOD heavens! is it possible
 “that I should already find you
 “unfaithful? (exclaimed the Marquis,
 “with his eyes still fixed on the object of
 “his wonder) there is a man concealed
 “under your bed.” Flora burst into tears
 at this accusation, and throwing herself
 on her knees before him, “Punish me not
 (said she) by an injurious suspicion:
 “if I lose your affection, life will be
 “insupportable. The person under the
 “bed, is a foreign nobleman of great
 “distinction, who came, I own, to make
 “me a very advantageous proposal, which
 “heaven knows my ardent affection for
 “you would not suffer me to accept.
 “Whilst he was endeavouring to per-
 “suade me to listen to him, I heard
 “you

“ you on the stairs, and requested
 “ him to conceal himself, lest the
 “ knowledge of the offer I have re-
 “ fused should become a future tax
 “ on your generosity; fearing likewise
 “ that your jealousy might be awakened
 “ by such a *tete à tete*, and that you
 “ might think ill of a woman who
 “ adores you.” The Marquis had seen too

much of the world, to give credit to this
 harangue; a thousand fears were awakened
 in his mind and agitated his heart. “ Let
 “ us see (said he, in a rage) this foreign-
 “ er, that I may be able to judge if he is
 “ worthy to dispute your heart with me.”
 At these words he drew the unfortunate
 feet from under the bed, and the still
 more unfortunate owner of them into
 the middle of the room, and instantly re-
 cognized the terrified countenance of his
 Valet de Chambre. “ Rascal, (said the

“ Marquis) what is the meaning I see
 “ you thus dressed in my clothes? Is it
 “ possible that a valet should dare to
 “ arrive at such an height of assurance?”
 “ A valet de chambre! ah, my God!”
 cried Madame de T***, and either faint-
 ed, or pretended so to do. “ Wretch,
 “ (said Monsieur D’Illois) tell me before
 “ I break every bone in your skin, what
 “ is the meaning of this metamorphose,
 “ and what you have done with my
 “ money?” The poor devil, more dead
 than alive, fell on his knees and confessed
 all that had passed. The Marquis con-
 tented himself with kicking him down
 stairs, and turned all his anger against
 his mistress, convinced of the perfidy
 and avarice of her whom a few hours
 before he had supposed so fondly attached
 to him.

FOLLY

F O L L Y XL.

WITHOUT uttering a single word to Flora, or being in the least moved by seeing her in a swoon, the Marquis began to break the looking-glasses, windows, china, and seemed determined to revenge her infidelity on the furniture; (happy it is for Madame de T***, that all the lovers to whom she had proved unfaithful had not thought of the same method of revenge). She still, however, continued in a state of insensibility with the patience of a stoic, 'till the Marquis lifting up his arm to throw down a very beautiful pagoda into the general wreck, she jumped at once upon her feet, and conjured him to spare her

F 2

pagoda.

pagoda. The Marquis, whose anger was rather abated by the mischief already done, went out without vouchsafing her a look, and left her weeping and cursing her credulity amidst a chaos of broken chairs, lustres, and looking glasses, which he had thus sacrificed to his rage.

FOLLY

F O L L Y XLI.

THE Marquis made a firm resolution never to see the inconstant beauty more; but when his warmth was subsided, he relented, and almost forgot her fault. "That rascal (said he) who seduced her by the sight of the louis's, was in fact the most to blame; perhaps had it not been for him, she might still have loved me." He then resolved to turn away the valet he had before had the goodness to pardon; and was twenty times on the point of returning to Flora, to request her forgiveness, and own to her that he could not live without her; but pride, powerful pride, restrained his impetuous desires, for luckily the story was too well known to be soon forgot; and the fear of being laughed at, so far prevailed that it obliged Monsieur D'Illois to keep the resolution he had made to abandon her for ever.

F O L L Y XLII.

MAdemoiselle D'Urbain continued still in the convent; vexed to the soul at being thus confined, and weary of every study she pursued, she determined to change the object of her attention, and learn geography. The master who taught this science at the convent, was a single man, about thirty years of age; his figure nothing uncommon, but just such a one as it may be supposed heaven would bestow on a geography master, without doing him a singular favour: his face was such as may be seen every day in every street in Paris; his eyes were the only features worthy of observation, for tho' they were small, they were lively and full of lustre, yet without power to express a single idea; the wit and understanding of this being, was.

was suited to his appearance; but a great deal of small talk of his own, and a very few *bon mots* of other people, made him pass among boarders at a convent for a very entertaining man, and Mademoiselle D'Urbain soon became enchanted with his merit; and he paid her so many fine compliments on her beauty and understanding, that she waited with impatience the hour when she was to repeat her lessons; began to fancy him amiable, and from a certain embarrassment she experienced whenever she was with him, concluded she was most violently in love, though the chief reason she had to suppose so, was that she could not look on him without blushing.

F O L L Y XLIII.

CONVINCED that her affections were unalterably fixed on this engaging creature, she found too much pleasure in the idea of being in love, to endeavour to combat her passion; besides it has ever been an undoubted and received opinion among very young ladies, and the servants who attend them, that a first love is unalterable; and these being the only persons who composed her society, she determined in compliance with their tenets, to indulge an affection she had ever heard it vain to oppose; and as she had found in all the romances she had read, that ladies of rank were very explicit in owning their inclination, she resolved to acquaint him with the impression he had made on her heart, and encourage him to

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avow what she fancied she read in his looks, though he had never dared to hint a word on the subject: the first time therefore that her master came, with her eyes fixed on the ground, and that blush of modesty on her cheek (which is only to be conquered by a series of such declarations) “ You have taught me, Sir, “ (said she) more than perhaps you intended; for I have discovered that, “ though love is known in every habitable “ country of the globe, yet I had ever “ remained ignorant of such a power, “ had I not seen you.”

F O L L Y XLIV.

WHEN she had ended this fine speech (the composing of which had kept her waking for two or three nights) the geography master transported with joy, committed a thousand absurdities to convince her of his passion, stammered a thousand vows of everlasting constancy and eternal adoration; but the time for the lesson being at an end, without their having said one half of what they wished to say, (and even during that time, ran the risque of being overheard both from the parlor and by a deaf Nun, who attended the young ladies to their lessons with their masters) they determined before they parted, to find an expedient to hold a conversation with more freedom; and the geography master

ter

ter returned home, delighted with joy; and when he reflected on the declaration of love made to him by a beautiful creature of seventeen, of birth and fortune, his vanity was more flattered than his tenderness. "I knew, (said he, surveying himself in the glass) that I should one time or other meet with a woman of fashion, whose discernment would revenge me on fortune, by doing justice to my figure and talents."

F O L L Y XLV.

ACTUATED by these transports, he sat down to write to his mistress; and giving a loose to the torrent of his wit and eloquence, he finished an epistle to Mademoiselle D'Urbain, which contained the following words:

“ Dearest Lady,

“ FROM pole artic to pole antar-
 “ tic, I have seen nothing comparable
 “ to you; be not then astonished that
 “ your world of charms have enflamed
 “ my heart like the torrid zone, and
 “ that I most earnestly desire to be
 “ raised to the altitude of your esteem;
 “ you are become my polar star, and
 “ from henceforth I will consult no other
 “ map, than your charming face, over
 “ which

" which my eyes travel with delight ; I
 " behold it as my sphere, and find there
 " as many beauties as the sphere has cir-
 " cles; scarce can I sustain the resplen-
 " dent light beaming from those bright
 " stars, which are set in it as planets in
 " the firmament : let me not then wan-
 " der in the vast wide sea of inconstan-
 " cy, but remain safe in the harbour of
 " fidelity, in defiance of tempests; for I
 " will ever be fixed as a rock, in point
 " of affection, and my love shall ever
 " remain in the same latitude.

" CARTINET."

FOLLY

FOLLY

F O L L Y XLVI.

MAdemoiselle D'Urbain was charmed with this elegant letter, and whilst she admired the stile in which it was written, her passion redoubled: earnestly wishing for an opportunity to speak to him without witnesses, she put a note into his hand at the next lesson, which was to acquaint him with a project she had formed, which, she conceived, might be easily put into execution the following night, for which she waited with the utmost impatience, as the very idea of an assignation attended with secrecy and difficulty, pleased her vanity and gratified a kind of innate love of intrigue to which she was naturally inclined.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y XLVII.

THE adventurous geography master was to get upon a very high wall, which was nearly even with the windows of Mademoiselle D'Urbain's apartments, and separated only by the width of a narrow area, so though it was impossible for them even to shake hands, yet they had opportunity for a long uninterrupted conversation, which must, however, be in whispers only, lest they should be overheard by the other boarders, whose rooms were contiguous. The lover long before the appointed hour ascended the wall at the imminent hazard of his neck, and creeping along the top, waited on his hands and knees 'till the convent clock struck twelve, the signal for the fair one to make her appearance at the window.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y XLVIII.

THE night proved so favourably dark that our hero had great reason to hope he should not be discovered ; but fortune, who seems to take pleasure sometimes to frustrate the designs of mortals, maliciously disappointed all his hopes by means of an old devotee whose chamber was next to Mademoiselle D'Urbins : this pious creature rose at midnight to say her prayers ; in the midst of her oraisons she fancied she heard a noise near her window, and was extremely terrified. “ Some evil spirit (said she, crossing herself) is, doubtless, prowling about, “ and jealous of my strict observance of “ my duty, is watching the moment of
“ inat-

“ inattention to steal my soul from heaven.” At last she took courage, and creeping softly to the window, plainly discovered something on the wall which had the appearance of a quadrupede of immense size, which, she was convinced, moved frequently ; and when she reflected on the very small distance between her window and the wall, her hair stood erect with fear ; for being assured what she saw was too large for a cat, she wisely conjectured that it must be the devil : possessed with this idea, she cried aloud, “ *Abrenuntio*, or I renounce thee, Satan !” As she spoke in a frightful, hollow tone occasioned by fear, the sound of her voice, though not the words, reached the ears of the geography master, who being greatly alarmed at finding himself discovered, rose on his feet to
 endea-

endeavour to make his escape. The old woman seeing him grown instantaneously to such an amazing height, doubted not but he was coming to fetch her through the window, and ran out of the room, calling on all the saints to protect her.

FOLLY

F O L L Y XLIX.

SHE ran for refuge into the chamber of Mademoiselle D'Urbain, who was preparing to give audience to her lover :

“ Ah! my God, (said the devotee) I shall
 “ not live long, I have seen the devil,
 “ I am convinced of it, I saw him as
 “ plain as I see you; he had large horns,
 “ a long tail, a fiery red and black skin;
 “ he was in a most frightful shape, grinned
 “ at me with horrid teeth, and flames of
 “ fire came out of his mouth and ears :
 “ for heaven's sake kneel with me, and
 “ let us pray heaven to keep him from
 “ us.” At any other time this superstitious terror of the devotee would have entertained Mademoiselle D'Urbain extremely, and even vexed as she was at her disappointment, she could not help laughing

laughing heartily. The other accused her of impiety, and swore by all the saints in paradise she had most faithfully related what she had seen, without the least exaggeration, declaring at the same time her resolution, “to pass the whole night on her knees, where she was, as she would not again, on any account, venture to return ’till day-light into her own chamber.” These words threw Mademoiselle D’Urbain into despair; indeed it was a most mortifying circumstance both to lose the opportunity of entertaining her lover, and be obliged to pass the night on her knees with apparent devotion, whilst in her heart she liberally bestowed the severest imprecations on the bigotry and impertinence of the old woman.

FOLLY

F O L L Y L.

AT the outcry made by the devotee, the geography master descended from the wall, and stood listening very attentively for some time, when finding every thing buried in profound silence, he ventured to climb up once more, where (as the nymph was engaged in a very different manner) he had sufficient leisure to amuse himself with his own thoughts: in vain did he endeavour to account for Mademoiselle D'Urbain's not coming according to her promise to her window; he accused by turns the nuns, the boarders, and even Mademoiselle D'Urbain herself, with being accessary to his disappointment: he waited several hours on all-fours; and as it was not a very easy posture, expected every moment

ment to fall to the ground ; at length, fearing to be discovered by the dawn of day when the nuns rose to matins, the poor man crept home to bed bruised, cramp't, and stiff with the cold, and furiously angry with Mademoiselle D'Urbain for daring to disappoint a lover like him.

FOLLY

F O L L Y L I.

THE next time he saw his beautiful scholar, she acquainted him with the uncomfortable night she had passed, to which he paid not the least attention, but was so violently angry at having waited so long in vain, that the young, unexperienced beauty deigned with tears to ask his pardon, and trembled at his menaces, (as he threatened her with nothing less than the entire loss of so illustrious a lover); however, on her humble submission, he at last condescended to be appeased, but assured her in the most imperious tone of voice, “that another
 “time she must not expect to meet with
 “the same degree of complaisance.”

F O L L Y

F O L L Y LII.

THE old Devotee conceived herself so much indebted to Mademoiselle D'Urbain, for the refuge she had so kindly given her from the Devil, that she scarce ever quitted her, but followed her continually : the daughter of the Baron was constrained to suffer her importunities, though by that means she could scarce ever get an opportunity to speak a word to the object of her affections.

F O L L Y LIII.

MAdemoiselle D'Urbin dissembled her uneasiness at this restraint, and accepted the offer of her friendship in order to gain her confidence; and when she found her ready to give credit to her insinuations, she came hastily one night into the old woman's room, and with all the seeming terror she could assume, declared, that going close to her own window, she had likewise seen the devil, and had made a determination never to look out after dark, and strongly recommended to the old lady to adopt the same resolution, and so far succeeded, that she promised whatever noise she might in future hear, nothing should tempt her to look out during the night.

F O L L Y L I V .

AS Mademoiselle D'Urbain had now some reason to hope that the fears of the devotee would prevent any further interruption to their nocturnal meetings, she ventured to write once more to her lover, and desired him to be on the wall the night following: he eagerly complied with her request, full of the most chimerical ideas of the happiness he should enjoy in exchanging vows so favourable to his interest as well as his wishes.

F O L L Y .

THE enamorado once more seated in the same uneasy posture, endeavoured to get as near to Mademoiselle D'Urbain's window as possible, and accordingly crept along (not quite so gracefully as a cat would have done in the same situation) for some yards; but in his peregrination he threw down a stone which was loose, from the top of the wall into the street: unfortunately the devotee was not yet in bed, and when she heard the noise, concluded it to be nothing less than a clap of thunder. Almost frightened to death, she fancied all the powers of hell were pre-

paring to attack her; despair gave her courage, and as a last resource, she took up, as she supposed to be, a vessel of holy water, (but which proved to be a boiling fomentation for her rheumatic leg) and, in spite of her terror, threw it out of the window in such a judicious direction, and with so much dexterity, that the geography master did not lose a single drop it contained.

FOLLY

F O L L Y LVI.

POOOR Cartinet feeling himself so dreadfully scalded, lost his equilibrium, and fell into the street; but fortunately for him, he fell into the midst of several bushels of lime, which had been left under the wall: scarcely had he recovered the use of his feet, before (in spite of the pain he felt from the burn, with some few additional bruises he got by his fall) he ran as fast as he could, dreading a second sprinkling: Mademoiselle D'Urbain was soon made acquainted with her lover's misfortunes, as the old woman awakened the whole convent with her cries, and related to the trembling nuns that she had again seen the wicked one, on the

wall ; that a most violent clap of thunder announced his arrival, and that, at last, she had taken courage, opened the window, and thrown over him the whole vessel of holy water ; that Satan feeling himself so sprinkled, howled most fearfully, and disappeared, leaving behind him a thick black smoke. The good creatures heard this story with a firm belief, and pious attention, and resolved to proclaim a fast to implore heaven for the protection of their convent, then they regained their cells, without daring to look behind them ; and unable to sleep the remainder of the night for the phantoms raised by their imagination ; and Mademoiselle D'Urbain, to heighten the ill-humour occasioned by her disappointment, was forced to offer half her bed to her troublesome neighbour, whose fears would not permit her to sleep alone.

F O L L Y LVII.

THE geography master was for several days unable to quit his bed, and the old devotee looking upon it as one of the christian duties to visit the sick, went most charitably to enquire after his health, and in their conversation related her late skirmish with the Devil; at which Cartinet turned pale with fear, and trembled every limb when he heard it was holy water with which he had been burnt so dreadfully: the old woman finding him become thoughtful and silent, retired soon after, and left him to his own reflections, which were not very pleasant ones, as he concluded he must be in a state of absolute perdition, since his sins were such as had already ranked him with the fallen angels, and that he, like them, was become sensible to the exorcisement of holy water.

F O L L Y LVIII.

THESE ideas worked so forcibly on his imagination, that he determined to renounce the world, merit pardon by repentance of his faults, and to enter into a convent, without informing any of his friends of his situation, or even taking leave of his beloved mistress; however, at the end of two days he began to consider, that common politeness obliged him to inform her of this project of penitence; he therefore wrote her a long letter, to acquaint her with his resolution, and the necessity of it, as “ he had doubtless offended heaven
 “ by his presumption in scaling the sacred
 “ walls of a convent, since the saints had
 “ permitted

" permitted a miracle, in order to work
 " his conversion, and had given to holy
 " water the power of visibly blistering
 " his skin in the severest manner, for
 " which reason he was resolved no longer
 " to oppose so visible a manifestation of
 " Providence, and therefore was deter-
 " mined to *turn capuchin*."

F O L L Y LIX.

MAdemoiselle D'Urbin had scarce read this letter, when the devotee came hastily into the room, crying "A miracle ! I have found (said she) the
 " vessel of holy water, with which I
 " conceived I had scalded the Devil ;
 " a full proof this of the interposition of
 " some good being in my favour, since
 " the demon felt so forcibly what
 " I threw on him, and which I
 " now find was nothing more than
 " mere boiling water, and that, you
 " know, could not possibly have the
 " least effect on a being who dwells in
 " the midst of fire and flames : O ! how
 " will father Laurence rejoice that his
 " poor penitent was thus made an humble
 " instrument to confound the prince of
 " darkness."

F O L L Y LX.

THE young lady perfectly satisfied with this intelligence, wrote to her lover the true cause of his misfortunes, and assured him, “ he need not “ doubt but St. Anthony himself would “ have suffered equally from the same “ sort of sprinkling.” This information banished instantly every idea of Cartinet’s turning monk ; and as soon as he was able to get abroad, he returned to the convent to repeat his vows of love and affection, where Mademoiselle D’Urbain was so overjoyed to behold him again, that she consented after much entreaty, (in the absence of the attendant nun, to grant him a kiss through the grate, as a consolation for his sufferings for her sake ; but just as their lips approached

each other on either side, the devotee entered the parlour very unexpectedly; the good old lady trembled at the crime she saw them going to commit, and instantly threw herself between them and the grate, accused the geography master “as being a seducer of his scholars, and “loudly thanked heaven for the discovery she had made of his disposition in “due time, as she had lately had some “thoughts of learning geography of him “herself;” then ordered him instantly to withdraw, and never more appear at the convent. The lovers so frightened, were all obedience, and were forced to part without daring to offer one single word in their own defence.

F O L L Y LXI.

THEY were no sooner alone than the devotee read Mademoiselle D'Urbin a very severe lecture on the very great impropriety of her behaviour, and ended with assuring "her, " that, if she were not her friend, the " whole convent should have been instantly acquainted with the affair, but " in consideration of the very great " affection she felt for her, it should be " kept a profound secret, if she would " promise to behave with more prudence " for the future." These last words afforded the young lady some consolation, and she promised to be more careful of her conduct, conjuring her " to be " mindful on her part of the silence she " had declared she meant to observe."

The

The old woman, indeed, proved herself to be a model of discretion, for she most religiously kept the secret for two long hours, and then it only escaped her to two of her most intimate friends who vowed never to disclose it, and they only acquainted four of their confidantes, on whose fidelity they could rely, by whose means in less than six hours it was known to the whole convent; and the Baron's daughter was the only person who remained ignorant that the whole transaction was no longer a secret.

FOLLY

F O L L Y LXII.

IN hopes the promises they had made of future decorum, had prevailed on the devotee to keep their secret, the geography master ventured to present himself once more (at the usual hour for his lessons) at the gate of the convent, but was repulsed by the portress with a very severe reprimand for his behaviour, and an express command from the abbess, to absent himself for the future: shocked at this treatment, he retired in confusion; and though he lost in this convent almost all the scholars he could boast, yet he flattered himself, by pursuing the conquest of Mademoiselle D'Urbain, her fortune would one day or other more than make him large amends for his present disgrace and disappointment.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y LXIII.

THUS separated, the lovers had no longer the least hope of obtaining an interview ; but fortunately for them, the old devotee fell sick, and a short time after, was removed to the infirmary on the other side of the house. Mademoiselle D'Urbain had no sooner got rid of this troublesome duenna, than she once more wrote to Cartinet, and appointed him again to be the next night on the wall, where she assured him nothing could now possibly interrupt their conversation.

F O L L Y LXIV.

HER lover had already suffered so severely from these appointments at the wall, that his courage was scarce sufficient to enable him to resolve to comply with the assignation : he trembled from head to foot at the idea of again repairing to that unfortunate spot, but fortifying his mind with all possible resolution, he ventured once more to set out at midnight, but was hardly got to the place before he was seized with a violent shaking; his teeth shattered, his hair stood upright on his head, and he remained almost immoveable, but recovering himself, he took courage to mount, and safely attained the top.

F O L L Y LXV.

BEING arrived opposite to the window of his mistress, he was again taken with such a pannaic that he was tempted to retire with precipitation; but, at that instant he heard the window open, and Mademoiselle D'Urbain softly call him by his name, which recovered him from his state of stupidity, and they had all the freedom of distant conversation, whilst vows of constancy and everlasting attachment were not spared on either side, to convince each other of their affection. In the midst of this interesting dialogue, they were alarmed by the clashing of swords and the sound of voices at a very little distance, and which seemed to approach still nearer to the convent.

FOLLY

F O L L Y LXVI.

AT length, by the pale glimmering light of the moon, they plainly discovered two men fighting with swords at the foot of the wall: fear prevented the geography master from articulating a syllable; and as he stood on the very darkest part of the wall, Mademoiselle D'Urbain concluded from his silence, that he had hastily retired on hearing the noise; and having waited a few moments, without hearing him speak, it confirmed her in her supposition, therefore shut her window, and retired to bed very well satisfied with the success of her project.

F O L L Y LXVII.

POOOR Cartinet now offered up his vows to any protecting power who would deign to accept them, and fear acted so forcibly on his imagination, that he fancied some of the friends of the Baron were going to scale the wall, and punish with their swords his ambitious attachment: this terror affected him so strongly, that he inadvertently lost his footing, and fell headlong between the combatants who were fighting with great fury.

FOLLY

F O L L Y LXVIII.

WHEN he found himself falling he roared as loud as he could : the persons on whom he fell were as frightened as himself, for, on hearing his cries, they concluded the watch and half the city of Paris were at their heels, therefore instantly forgot their animosity, and the cause of it, and without uttering one single word, ran each a different way as fast as possible.

FOLLY

F O L L Y LXIX.

THEY fled in such haste that they forgot their coats and waistcoats, which they had stripped off by agreement, to make a quicker termination of the matter in question : luckily for our lover, he fell on their spoils, which prevented his receiving any hurt ; and as soon as he became capable of perceiving on what he had fallen, and that the coast was clear, he made not the least scruple to take them home along with him as his lawful capture, and some consolation for the fright he had undergone.

F O L L Y LXX.

THE duelists on the contrary regained their lodgings *en chemise* (a proper punishment for their folly) ; for both being in love with the same lady, who could with propriety marry only one of them (at least at a time), the other turned all his rage against his rival, and wisely endeavoured to gain the affection of his mistress, by cutting the throat of the man for whom she professed a partiality, whilst the lover, equally reasonable on his part, thought it incumbent on him to destroy his friend for being sensible to those charms he would have deemed it the most profound stupidity not to admire; and they had met by appointment that evening under the convent wall, actuated by the laudable desire of putting an end to each other's existence, because they were both of the same mind.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y LXXI.

THE Marquis D'Illois thought he had now allowed sufficient time for all the formality of sorrow, and therefore waited on the Baron to renew his proposal, and request the long promised introduction to his daughter. Having ever been on the most friendly terms, the Marquis assumed the privilege of a son-in-law, rather prematurely, and entered whilst the Baron was at his toilette, who was so charmed to see him, that he flew eagerly to meet him; and Monsieur D'Illois finding himself so favourably received, hoped soon to obtain the height of his wishes, and most earnestly desired his permission to accomplish his marriage.

“ I am glad, my dear Marquis, (said the Baron) that this is the subject of your visit; I esteem your alliance an honour,

“honour, and promise you not to defer
 “your nuptials, but will fix an early day
 “for their celebration.” Monsieur

D’Illois thanked him with transport; but on looking on the deranged countenance of the Baron, (which his eagerness to plead his cause had prevented his before observing,) he could not forbear smiling (though certainly very *mal-à-propos*).

When he perceived Monf. D’Urbin had one eye-brow a fine dark brown, whilst the other was entirely grey, and the down on his beard on one side white as chalk, and the other tinged with the same brown as his finished eye-brow: the Baron tremblingly alive to ridicule (from being conscious he deserved it) read satire in the ill-timed smile of the Marquis, instantly looked in the glass, and shuddered with vexation to see the mystery of his toilette discovered by his negligence; he remain-

ed silent a few moments, then turning
 “angrily to the Marquis, “If you,
 “Sir, (said he) have not more politeness
 “than to surprise persons whilst they are
 “dressing, my daughter shall never
 “marry any man who knows so little of
 “etiquette.” He then retired, and left
 Monsieur D’Illois in the utmost astonish-
 ment.

F O L L Y LXXII.

FOrtunately for the Marquis, a few days after this frâcâs, a little sinug Abbé went to pay a visit to the old Devotee at Mademoiselle D'Urbîn's convent; after a few common place compliments, they began to expatiate on the wickedness of the world in general, the follies of young persons in particular, and both began most devoutly to censure all their acquaintance. As this was an everlasting subject for conversation, it continued a long time; at last the good lady could not help telling him how greatly she had frequently been a sufferer from the delicacies of her own conscience, and repeated how much she had very lately been hurt, and her christian charity perfectly distressed, between the wish

to disguise the failings of a friend and religious doubts, lest she should by hiding her fault become an accomplice in her guilt. She then related to him that a beautiful young girl of seventeen, daughter to the Baron D'Urbain had fallen violently in love with her geography master; that she had surprised her granting him a kiss through the grate, which had occasioned the master's dismissal from the convent: she uttered this all with so much volubility, that any one but the Abbé would have found great difficulty in attending to the story; he, on the contrary, took care to remember every word of it: but in order to account for his listening so attentively to what may appear a matter so wholly indifferent to him, it is necessary to observe, that the Baron D'Urbain was his rival, and that the Abbé was extremely jealous of his assiduities

affiduities to the beautiful presidente (the widow before mentioned); he therefore lost not a single circumstance, and when she had finished her relation, he retired, and left her convinced of the piety of the conversation, and greatly edified by having thus disclosed the faults of a poor innocent girl.

F O L L Y LXXIII.

PLEASED with this discovery, the Abbé determined to take an opportunity to rally the Baron most unmercifully the first time he met him at the présidenté assemblée; accordingly, one very full night, he began very artfully to turn the discourse on the happiness of longevity, and congratulated the Baron on the probability of his enjoying so desirable a blessing, observing “ how extremely well he looked for his age, and “ that having a daughter now old enough “ to make him a grandfather, he might “ very reasonably hope to see his great “ grand children.” Monsieur D’Urbin was extremely surprised at this attack, but endeavoured to evade it as much as possible, by declaring, that “ the de-
 “ ceased

“ ceased Baroness left only one daughter, “ a child at school ;” but the spiteful Abbé, immediately not only told the name of the convent where Mademoiselle D’Urbin was confined, but laughing, accused him of acting the part of “ an “ unnatural father, in thus denying his “ own child.” The unhappy Baron hearing this accusation brought so home to him in so peremptory a manner, remained silent, scarce daring to lift up his eyes, so much was he ashamed at being convicted of being an old man.

F O L L Y LXXIV.

THE malicious Abbé enjoyed his confusion, and endeavoured to redouble it, by repeating all the devotee had told him; he related Mademoiselle D'Urbain's adventure with the geography master, in which the kiss was not forgotten, nor the name of the devotee who had surprised them. The Baron, who was himself an entire stranger to this part of his daughter's history, was shocked to death at the vulgarity of the amour, yet was at last constrained to acknowledge that it was true, that he "had a daughter in that convent, but that she was not in reality near as old as she appeared to be;" and the lovely widow pitying

pitied his confusion, said with the greatest politeness, that, if “ Mademoi-
 “ felle D’Urbin was old enough to be
 “ married, the world must allow the
 “ Baron must have been a very young
 “ father.”

F O L L Y LXXV.

WHEN the Baron returned home he reflected on the very disagreeable situation he had been brought into, by having a daughter so forward; he was extremely vexed, as he clearly perceived the whole company had been entertained at his expence, and that not one of them had cordially assented to the compliment paid him by the lady of his affections; and so chagrined was he, that he instantly formed two resolutions, the one to give up the pleasure of going any more to the présidenté assembly, lest the Abbé should have another anecdote in store for him, equally malicious; the other was to marry his daughter immediately; accordingly he went the very next morning to Monsieur D'Illois, and
taking

without taking notice of the very abrupt manner in which they had parted, told him, "that he hoped his visit would
 " prove an agreeable one, as he called
 " to fix the time for his marriage with
 " Mademoiselle D'Urbain," but had the prudence carefully to conceal the motive which made him wish to accelerate their nuptials : indeed the real reasons for most alliances are seldom given or required on either side, (a fortunate circumstance), since many of them would be found neither better or wiser than the Baron's.

F O L L Y LXXVI.

THE Marquis was rejoiced at this overture, and accepted with rapture the offer made by the Baron to introduce him that very evening to his daughter at the convent; and they mutually agreed that the marriage should take place in a few days. Thus hastily was finally settled an affair on which the future happiness of the two young people depended: and the Baron agreed to resign his child to a man to whose principles, disposition, and temper he was almost a perfect stranger, with much less anxiety than he would have felt on being obliged to leave the choice of the colour of a birth-day suit to his taylor, or the size of a pair of new shoe buckles to his jeweller.

F O L L Y LXXVII.

MAdemoiselle D'Urbain received the message from her father, to prepare her for their reception with infinite pleasure; to say the truth, it was the first visit he had ever favoured her with since her residence at the convent. When he introduced the Marquis, he commanded her to look upon him as the man who was to become her husband, and inform her at the same time, that she should quit the convent, and be married in a few days. As their union was so soon to take place, Monsieur D'Illois made a declaration of his passion in form, which was received by Mademoiselle D'Urbain with so much modesty and diffidence, that he was entirely captivated: he staid with
her

her an hour, the longest time he could possibly spare that evening, having an assignation to meet a very beautiful woman at the opera, but went away from her perfectly convinced from that single hour's conversation, that her understanding, accomplishments, and turn of mind, were such as could not fail to make him the happiest of men.

F O L L Y LXXVIII.

HE was no sooner gone than Mademoiselle D'Urbain acknowledged to her father that she was entirely satisfied with the choice he had been pleased to make of the Marquis, as she should with infinite pleasure give her hand to a man so handsome, elegant, fashionable, and well dressed, as Monsieur D'Illois, "whose very appearance (she said) was such as bespoke him incapable of controuling the inclinations of his wife;" and continued to talk of the happiness of precedence, jewels, equipage, and introduction to court in so fluent a stile that the Baron was perfectly surpris'd: and had he ever given himself the trouble to investigate the various opinions of the learned on the doctrine of innate ideas,

he

he would now have formed his own in direct opposition to that of Mr. Locke, and have concluded that his daughter must certainly have been born with these ideas of fashionable life, since it would have been next to an impossibility she could ever have attained them in the convent, or in the very short acquaintance she had made with the world before she came thither.

FOLLY

F O L L Y LXXIX.

THE instant the Baron D'Urbain quitted the parlour, Mademoiselle his daughter flew to acquaint the whole convent with the news of her approaching marriage; the satisfaction, however, she expressed at the choice of the husband allotted her, was far from being her real sentiments; for though she was infinitely pleased that she was so soon to be married, yet, the person of Monsieur D'lllois had rather disgusted than charmed her; but so earnest was her desire of becoming her own mistress, that she resolved to dissemble her dislike, knowing if she rejected the Marquis, she might not only incur her father's displeasure, but what was much worse, must remain in the convent 'till some other person had made proposals, which the Baron approved.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y LXXX.

THE news of Mademoiselle D'Urbain's intended nuptials soon reached the unfortunate geography master; yet he could scarce give credit to the report, when he recollected the love she had professed, and the vows of fidelity she had so lately made to him; but when he soon after heard it confirmed beyond a possibility of doubt, he was at first stupified with grief, and afterwards agitated by the most furious transports of rage: had he dared to have made his appearance at the convent, he would have instantly gone and overwhelmed her with reproaches of perfidy and ingratitude, but as he was circumstanced, he was forced to content himself with writing to her on this subject; and sent a letter containing

seven.

seven large sheets of paper, which he found not any difficulty in conveying to her, as she was now no longer under any restraint of that kind; but Made-moiselle D'Urbain was so entirely employed in preparations for her wedding, that she deigned not to send any answer to this epistle, and had almost forgot that there existed in the world such a being as poor Cartinet, who, after waiting in vain three long days for an answer, found out at last an excellent contrivance to put an immediate end to his love and misfortunes, by making a very serious determination to hang himself; and that his insensible mistress might be convinced that her barbarity had cost him his life, and this instance of his courage should not remain unknown to posterity, he went (as soon as it was dark) to the gate of the convent, and putting one end of
a rope

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a rope (which he brought in his pocket for this purpose) round his neck, he passed the other through the iron bars over the door at the entrance, and made an imprecation on the fair sex in general, Mademoiselle D'Urbain in particular, then swung into the air, and remained suspended.

FOLLY

F O L L Y LXXXI.

IT was seven o'clock in a winter evening when he had thus disposed of himself, and he hung in such a manner that no person could pass either in or out of the convent without observing him; he had not been many minutes in this situation before one of the boarders, who had dined with her friends was set down by them in a coach at the end of the street, and walked alone to the convent, which was but a few yards distance; yet the night being dark, the street unfrequented, and she unused to walk alone, she was rather alarmed, and went hastily to pull the bell, instead of which she laid hold on the dangling foot of the unfortunate Cartinet, and on feeling the shoe and stocking, she screamed as loud as she possibly could with terror and amazement.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y LXXXII.

ON hearing her cries the portress ran out with a light, but when she saw the figure of a man hanging on the gate of their holy house, her screams even exceeded those of the terrified boarder; their clamours soon reached the community, and both nuns and boarders ran out altogether to enquire the cause of this unusual disturbance: Mademoiselle D'Urbain, who came with the rest, was near fainting when she beheld the tragical catastrophe of her lover; yet as the darkness of the night and the alteration in his features, occasioned by suffocation, prevented

vented the spectators less interested than herself from recollecting him, she concealed as much as possible her agitation, whilst the nuns, without offering him the least assistance, devoted him (from the manner of his death to perdition), and all joined in agreeing, that the cause of it must be love for some inhabitant of the convent; and as it could not reasonably be supposed that he would ever return to life to contradict the assertion, each of them, old and young, candidly confessed, “ they had reason to fear that
 “ they were in some degree the cause of
 “ this rash action, having very lately
 “ strictly forbid an unfortunate young
 “ man (whose name christian charity
 “ prevented their disclosing,) ever to
 “ think of an attachment to them so
 “ incompatible with their heavenly en-
 “ gagement.”

“gagement.” As so many were exactly in the same predicament, the person to whom this lover belonged could not possibly be discovered, but surely never did so many innocent persons join in accusing themselves of a crime of which none of them were in the least guilty.

FOLLY

F O L L Y LXXXIII.

SOME charitable neighbours, however, cut down the unfortunate young man, and finding him still warm, poured some cordial down his throat, and used so many endeavours to restore him to life, that at last they succeeded, and brought him to his senses: the nuns at the approach of men had retired into the convent, but the curiosity of the boarders kept them still with the portress at the gate. When he was perfectly recovered, the young lady who had been the means of his preservation, was pointed out to him; gratitude to her (or revenge towards Mademoiselle D'Urbain) made him think her charming; and the swelling of his face having subsided, and he known to be Cartinet, he went up to

her, and begged permission to wait on her, at her father's, assuring her very gallantly (with a look of disdain towards Mademoiselle D'Urbain) "that if he ever hung himself again it should be for her alone."

F O L L Y LXXXIV.

THE boarder, who was an agreeable young woman, returned the next day to reside at her father's, and her station in life being an humble one, she did not disdain the geograghy master's addresses: they were married in a few days; a precipitation which he expected would have driven Mademoiselle D'Urbain to despair; but she contented herself with coolly observing, that "as there was so short a space between the hanging and the marriage, if the wedding had been first, the other would have been more easy to have been accounted for;" a reflection that indicated great knowledge of life for so young a lady, and convinced Cartinet that he had nothing further to hope from the contemptuous coolness of his once affectionate fair one.

F O L L Y LXXXV.

THE contract of marriage was now signed between the Marquis D'Ill-lois and Mademoiselle D'Urbin, and her apartments were filled with magnificent presents from the Marquis: half the milliners and mantua-makers in Paris were kept constantly employed, and from the trades-people busied in coming for their orders, one might reasonably have concluded the whole convent were going to be married.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y LXXXVI.

AT length the day was fixed, but as persons of fashion never marry at any time of the year in Paris, it was concluded the ceremony should be performed in the country, although it was winter, and the weather extremely unpleasant for such an expedition; the Marquis, therefore, set out for his chateau the evening before, to prepare for the reception of his beautiful bride, whom the Baron was to conduct thither the next day.

F O L L Y LXXXVII.

AFTER having been three hours at her toilette, Mademoiselle D'Urbain was ready by eight o'clock in the morning to attend her father, who called for her in a new coach and six, with superb harness, new liveries, several out-riders, and three postilions. The heart of Mademoiselle D'Urbain fluttered with joy at the sight of this cavalcade; she embraced her father with rapture, bid adieu to her friends in the convent with an air of triumphant indifference, and on stepping into the carriage, seemed to rush with transport into a world to which she was a perfect stranger.

F O L L Y LXXXVIII.

WHEN they arrived at the chateau where the relations on both sides were assembled, whilst the bridegroom was introducing his bride to his friends, a stop had nearly been put to the ceremony by an old Countess, sister to the Baron, who declared she never would consent "that her niece should marry a
 " man who had given her so small a diamond nosegay; that it was not half
 " big enough; that the one the Count,
 " her husband, had presented her with at
 " their marriage, was four times the size,
 " and of such a price, that he sold two
 " farms and a lordship to purchase it." The company were in confusion; for, as the Baron had expectations from his sister, she was not to be disobliged, and as

there were not any jewellers nearer than Paris, it was a difficulty not to be obviated that day. Mademoiselle D'Urbin trembled lest she should once more be obliged to return to the convent; she therefore declared, "that the nosegay
 " was chosen by herself; that it was the
 " jeweller had assured her that it was the
 " most fashionable size, and that it was
 " with difficulty she could prevail on the
 " Marquis to let her have one so small;
 " she therefore conjured her aunt to permit her to wear it." On hearing this declaration the Countess condescended to be appeased, so far as to suffer the nuptials to go on, but declared loudly against the absurdity of the present fashion, and was not in a perfect harmony and good humour the whole day after.

F O L L Y LXXXIX.

THE terrible word, *I will*, was at length pronounced by Mademoiselle D'Urbin, by which she renounced the authority of a parent for that of a stranger ; lost her name, and became engrafted into a family, without being acquainted with an individual person in it, and assumed the title of wife to the Marquis of D'Illois, without having considered the duties of one, or the least inclination to fulfil them if she had. For the first five days it was rapture and adoration on the side of the bridegroom ; condescending, sweetness, and complaisance on the part of the bride : but on the sixth day the Marchioness took it

1 5 into

into her head that she could not bear the smell of *marechale* powder, and requested the Marquis very seriously to leave it off, which, to her utter astonishment, he positively refused, and hinted rather unpolitely, "that nothing but her being
 "just taken from a convent could excuse
 "the ignorance of such a wish:" Madame D'Illois returned with great spirit, "that if she had observed before
 "she had been married, that he wore it,
 "she never would have suffered the
 "match to have taken place; for though
 "she knew little of the world, yet she
 "knew enough of it to be convinced a
 "coxcomb would not easily give up
 "what he supposed became him." The Marquis nettled at the insinuation, and having heard the story of the geography master (which had been talked on in most circles) told her, that "he did not
 "wonder

“ wonder she could not easily reconcile
 “ herself to the manners of a man of fa-
 “ shion, when Cartinet had so lately had
 “ possession of her heart.” The enraged
 Marchioness burst into tears, and threat-
 ened to complain both to her aunt and
 father of the ill treatment she had re-
 ceived.

F O L L Y XC.

THE Countess and the Baron (who were in an adjoining chamber) overheard this altercation, which they found was carried on in rather too high a key for a love dialogue, therefore concluded it best to make their appearance before the young couple had exposed themselves to the servants. The Countess when she heard the subject in debate, endeavoured to sooth the Marquis into a compliance with the lady's request, but when she found him obstinately persist in his denial, she flew into a rage, and declared, " nothing better than fullness and obstinacy could be expected from a man who had given his bride so contemptible a bouquet; and that her niece
" might

“ might easily have known what unhap-
 “ piness she would meet with, when he
 “ dared to offer her such a contemptible
 “ present on the very day of mar-
 “ riage.” The father-in-law addressed
 him in turn, and conjured him to sacri-
 fice something to the peace of mind of
 his wife; but the Marquis equally a
 stranger to controul or contradiction, be-
 haved like a madman; and as this scene
 passed in the Marquis’s dressing-room,
 where his toilette was set for dressing, he
 caught up the puff from the Marechale
 powder box, and threw it in the face of
 the Marchioness, who screamed aloud,
 and immediately sunk down in a fainting
 fit on a sofa, which fortunately stood
 behind her.

FOLLY

F O L L Y XCI.

THE chateau was now become the seat of confusion, and the unfortunate Madame D'Illois was carried to her apartment; when she recovered she related to her maid the barbarous treatment she had met with from the Marquis, and her determined resolution never to forgive it; acknowledged that she never had liked him, but for the future she should ever look upon him with horror and disgust: the maid (who well knew that the less she liked her husband, the more probable it was that she should listen to a lover, and that the more secrets Madame had to keep, the better for her *suivante*,) confirmed her in this charitable disposition, and assured the Marchioness her resentment was perfectly just;

“ that

“ that the treatment she had met with,
 “ would justify her hatred to her husband
 “ in the sight of God and man; though
 “ for that matter she did not conceive it
 “ needed any excuse, for many great
 “ ladies, (she said) with whom she had
 “ lived, hated their husbands without
 “ any reason at all.

FOLLY

F O L L Y XCII.

BY a very strange fatality, Madame D'Illois no sooner openly shewed her dislike of her husband, than he took it into his head to be violently fond of her, and there was not any thing (Marechale powder excepted, in which he was determined to persist, let what would be the consequence) that he would not have relinquished to oblige her ; and on their return to Paris a few days after, he so constantly followed her in public, and intruded so often into the same parties she frequented in private, that he became the laugh of all his fashionable acquaintance ; and the Marchioness frequently assured him, she was perfectly ashamed of being seen with him so often, and represented to him with great asperity, “ that they
“ were

“were both on the point of becoming
 “extremely ridiculous.” Monf. D’Il-
 lois, however, continued to persist, and
 in a very short time (whether from real
 antipathy, or fashion, it is impossible to
 say) but true it is, that he was looked
 upon by his lady with a very polite and
 fashionable hatred.

F O L L Y XCIII.

THE Marchioness, being my principal heroine, and intended by nature to play a capital character in the theatre of the great world, seems to demand a particular description of her person and character: the *tout ensemble* was an interesting figure, an oval face, large dark eyes, full of fire and expression, a nose like Marmontel's Roxelana, a mouth ornamented with a beautiful set of teeth, and a very small head, whose motion would be best exemplified by a weathercock in a storm of wind; her complexion was beautifully white, and the natural colour of her cheek would have rendered

rendered rouge useless, had not her rank and quality obliged her to wear it; a great quantity of fine glossy dark hair would have covered her neck and shoulders with natural ringlets, but that the present fashion was to elevate them half a foot higher than the head; and though the Baron had so frequently asserted that she was remarkably tall for her age, yet, true it is, she was one of the least women that ever was seen: a beauty in miniature: her shape was elegantly formed, and the continual motion of her head, (already described) seemed to give her additional grace; her vivacity was such, that she scarce remained an instant in a place, and her whole composition seemed to be formed of fire and quick-silver: when she came into a circle, her step was something between walking and dancing, but infinitely graceful; as soon as she was seated

feated she would speak on an hundred different subjects, equally trifling, with volubility and elegance of stile; and on a sudden, when she had engaged the attention of the company, she would recollect another appointment, rise immediately, and disappear like lightning, without finishing the topic she had already begun: her violent love for the geography master, had early in life shewn her susceptibility of that passion, and the short duration of her affection, the levity, and inconstancy of her disposition, too lively to allow herself time for thought; she ever followed the first impulse of her passions, and reflection never came to her assistance 'till it was too late to be of service to her conduct; and as it then answered no other purpose than to convince her she had been in the wrong she endeavoured to banish it by dissipation, and went
on,

on, committing a thousand absurdities, yet was the first to ridicule and laugh at them; secure, she thought, of the indulgence of the world, who, she doubted not, would be extremely favourable to the follies of a young, beautiful woman of fashion.

FOLLY

F O L L Y XCVI.

THE Marquis D'Illouis, as has been observed, dared not openly avow his partiality for his wife, for fear of incurring both her displeasure, and being the jest of his acquaintance; he now therefore affected to treat her with apparent indifference, though he looked on her with admiration: just at this juncture there was a very superb and complete suit of diamonds to be sold, which had been bespoke for a sovereign Princess on her marriage, which not having taken place, they were returned to the jeweller to dispose of; all Paris went in crouds to see them, nothing was to be heard, but encomiums on their lustre, size, and beauty; all the ladies who formed the
least

least hope of being able to possess them, from the extravagance or generosity of their husbands, or lovers, became on a sudden the most affectionate, kind, faithful, good tempered creatures breathing; the Marchioness herself grew extremely fond of her husband, (but very much dissatisfied with the setting of her own jewels,) and one morning declared “ she “ was displeased with the restraint of “ Paris, where she was obliged conti- “ nually to disguise the preference with “ which she looked on the Marquis be- “ yond all the rest of his sex, and pro- “ posed going into the country *tête-à-tête* “ for a month.” Enchanted by the pro- posal, the Marquis accepted it with trans- port, they set out immediately, the Mar- chioness called in her way out of town to bespeak a diamond pin for a friend at the very jeweller’s who had the suit of
d amonds

diamonds to dispose of : he shewed them to the Marquis, and said so much in their praise, that Monsieur D'Illois knowing his lady was not pleased with her own jewels, offered to make her a present of them ; she made several objections to the expence she should put him to, " her's having " been new so lately ;" but as he passionately requested her compliance, she condescended to accept them, and they continued their route the happiest couple in the universe.

FOLLY

F O L L Y XCV.

THE Marquis had now attained the height of his wishes ; he was permitted to shew his tenderness without reserve, and was heard with sensibility and affection : the Marchioness for the first three days found her husband a very entertaining companion, and frequently declared, “ she thought the present system of living together, like “ well bred strangers, a very absurd one ;” but as human happiness is seldom of long duration, this affectionate couple had not been a week in the country before they grew tired of each other’s society, their conversation grew dull, uninteresting :—to enliven the dialogue, they had recourse to contradiction ; and as this arose on most subjects, and was pursued with equal

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warmth on both sides, they began to dislike each other very sincerely, yet condescended to agree in one point, which was, to return directly to Paris on the day week they left it, with a full resolution of never more making a matrimonial expedition into the country ; and their contempt for each other greatly encreased by this experiment.

F O L L Y XCVI.

ON their arrival at their hotel in Paris, they adopted a more fashionable plan of life than they had already done: they agreed on dividing the apartments between them, and as the house was large and commodious, and the wings separated by a spacious court-yard, with the assistance of separate carriages, separate amusements, and separate society, it enabled them to live as politely distant from each other as their rank required; and who shall for the future say, that quality and fortune are not to be accounted sublunary blessings, when they can thus lighten the heavy and insupportable chain of Hymen.

F O L L Y XCVII.

THE Baron D'Urbin, (having seen his daughter thus happily settled) for change of amusement and variety in his pleasures, went into the country, and employed himself in rebuilding an old castle, planting young trees, and, on festivals and Sunday evenings when his men did not work, he made one in their rural diversions, and made love to the lasses by turns, who received on account of his rank, and for the sake of his presents, caresses, which, had he only been their equal, would have filled them with disgust.

F O L L Y XCVIII.

JUST at this period, it became fashionable in Paris for men of distinction, who were the most elegant in their dress of an evening, to traverse the streets in a morning on foot, in a dress in which their servants would have been ashamed to appear; thus the Marquis D'Illois, with his hair all in disorder, turned up behind with a comb, under a very small hat, placed almost over his left ear, a silk cravat round his neck, a drab frock, made short, without lining, grey thread stockings, and a small switch in his hand, went out constantly mingling with the vulgar and lowest rank of people, without the conscious shame he ought to have felt at thus degrading himself by a strict adherence to fashionable folly.

F O L L Y XCIX.

ONE day as he was walking in this dress, with the addition of several large splashes on his coat, and a small *couteau de chasse* by his side, he was met by one of those respectable gentlemen, whose particular employment it is to entrap soldiers for government; his easy figure and deportment (being tall and well made, attracted the notice of the kidnapper, who little suspecting the man of fashion under that disguise, and thinking, on the contrary, he had met with an easy prey, approached him with an haggard, frowning brow, and seizing him by the collar, " My friend, (said he), by what authority do you dare to carry
 " arms?

" arms? Are you ignorant of the severity of the edict, which declares all persons punishable who wear them unprivileged?" Monsieur D'Illois attempted to disengage himself, but the guard coming up at the noise, they were both carried before a magistrate.

F O L L Y C.

THE magistrate first heard the declaration of the kidnapper, who pleaded, " that he thought it his duty " to stop any improper person who wore " a sword, (and a *couteau de chasse*, he " observed, was exactly the same thing) ; " that he had laid hold on the prisoner " therefore as a proper, well made man, " fit to serve the King, and insisted " that he should either be obliged to " enlist, or be sent directly to prison." The Marquis was entertained with this adventure, and determined to see what kind of treatment a poor, friendless man might expect to meet with in a similar situation ; he therefore addressed himself to the magistrate

gistrate in a very humble manner, who interrupted him with a supercilious air, surveyed him from head to foot, and declared, " that the enlisting such idle fellows was a service to the public in general, and that as the rascal was well made, it was an additional reason why he should carry a musket. " Come, (said he) speak, firrah, a cockade or a dungeon, without giving me any further trouble." This method of administering justice a good deal surprized Monsieur D'Illois, who in vain protested that he was really an honest man, whose only crime was poverty ; but all the representations of his innocence were ineffectual, and vain every endeavour to induce them to look on him with compassion ; 'till at length he declared his name and quality, and they then descended to use the most abject entreaties that he would forgive them

the insults undesignedly offered to him ; but he condescended not to listen to their excuses, and left them overwhelmed with fear and shame at having been detected in an act of cruelty and oppression. The magistrate was soon struck off the list, and the kidnapper condemned to a six months imprisonment, on an application from the Marquis to the Minister ; thus (as he was a man of consequence) an insult to him, was amply revenged ; but, had he been the unfriended being they supposed him, the greatest misfortune that could have happened to a human creature inflicted on him unjustly, had gone unpunished.

F O L L Y C I.

THE Marquis, by this little adventure, clearly saw how poverty may suffer from the partial administration of justice; but an unfortunate event proved to him a few days after, that quality and fortune may, on the contrary, exempt a man from the punishments due to real crimes.

One evening, after some hours devoted to riot and drinking with his usual set of libertine friends, it was proposed at the hour of separation, by Count D'Arbannes, that the Marquis should go with with him to spend a few hours with the beautiful Rosetta, who lived in one of those houses which are frequented by unhappy men of desolate and abandoned principles, who, being conscious that

K 6

they

they can really inspire no other sentiment than disgust, 'are therefore obliged to hire venal beauty, (contemptible as it is amidst the complicated horrors of vice and indigence,) and pay largely for the appearance of a passion which they can never inspire. The Marquis agreed readily to the frolick proposed, and both himself and the Count being in a dishabille as before-mentioned, they each put on a long sword instead of a coteau, and ordering their carriage to stop at the end of the street, they proceeded to the house, and knocking loudly at the door, rudely insisted on immediate admittance; the person who opened the door not liking their appearance, declared they could not be suffered to come in as the house was full of company, and the young ladies all engaged; these remonstrances were vain, they still pressed forward, and the
servant

servant being terrified, called to her assistance three men, whose dress and countenance clearly demonstrated they were of the number of those kept to defend their quarrels, and assist them to extort payment from dupes : the numbers being unequal was an inducement to the Marquis and Count to resolve not to give up their purpose ; and their demands became so peremptory, that the men drew their swords, and attacked them with great fury ; the gentlemen drew likewise, and each received a wound, but the Marquis made a pass at his antagonist which ran him directly through the body, and he dropt down dead upon the spot.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CII.

THE clashing of swords, and cries of the afrighted vestals who ran down to enquire the cause of this uproar, alarmed the guard, who entered with their bayonets fixed, and disarmed the combatants; when seeing a man killed, the serjeant declared it to be a serious affair, and enquired "which was the murderer?" The Marquis was instantly pointed out to him, and one of the men faithfully related the whole of this unfortunate transaction: but when the serjeant came near them to examine their pockets, they took care adroitly to whisper their name and quality, slipping at the same time each ten louis into his hand. When the handcuffs were brought,

the

the serjeant, who (by this method of reasoning) had formed a very different opinion of the criminals, said to the man appointed to put them on, “ Hand
 “ cuff those two fellows immediately,
 “ whose impertinent denial of entrance
 “ has occasioned the death of their
 “ companion, which they now want to
 “ impute to these two honest gentlemen,
 “ who were obliged to defend themselves
 “ from their atrocious violence : on, I
 “ say, with the fetters, and let them be
 “ tight ones ; and as to these beautiful
 “ young ladies, I doubt not but I shall
 “ have the pleasure of providing them
 “ soon with a lodging by order of the ma-
 “ gistrate.” The unhappy men were
 astonished at this sudden transition, but
 were obliged to submit to be fettered.
 The women were taken into custody, and
 the serjeant and some of the guards wait-
 ed

ed on the Count and Marquis with the utmost respect to their carriage, assuring them they were now so fully informed of the affair, that they need not give themselves the trouble of appearing before the magistrate.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CIII.

ANOTHER night when the Marquis and his party had been indulging themselves with a few innocent midnight frolics, such as knocking at people's doors to frighten them out of their bed; breaking a multitude of lanterns; beating several poor old men and women, and then sending them home with their faces blacked and their hands tied behind them; they found themselves tired, and being in a quarter of the town where they were unknown, they went into one of the lowest kind of houses that are open for public entertainment to refresh themselves; they seated themselves on a dirty form, round a greasy deal table, enlightened only by the melancholy end of a twinkling

twinkling tallow candle ; the master of this place supplied them with a quantity of spirituous liquors, little suspecting the quality of his guests under their mean appearance : the intoxicating draught which they swallowed, soon nearly deprived them of their senses, and they began to disturb the whole neighbourhood with their bacchanalian revels, and discordant songs : from immoderate mirth they began to dispute on the beauty and chastity of their respective mistresses, they first drank their health, and then so violently insisted on the superiority of their perfections, that at last, enraged by contradiction, one of them threw a bottle at the head of his friend, who instantly returned the compliment with a large dish which contained the remains of a cold pye ; the engagement now became general ; the table was overturned ; bottles and

pint

pint pots rolled upon the floor, and the streams of liquor mingled with the blood of the combatants ; blows were given on all sides, whilst the miserable end of candle floated on the ground till it was utterly extinguished, and hid in the shades of oblivion and obscurity many glorious exploits of the enraged champions. The master of the house, and a ragged boy, (who was his only domestic) vainly endeavoured to part them, 'till at last wearied by blows given and received, they were glad to pay their reckoning, and get into a couple of hackney coaches ; and the Marquis regained the hotel with an eye nearly beat out of his head, a dislocated shoulder, and a face entirely discoloured with bruises ; but what he chiefly regretted, were three teeth lost in the scuffle, and which were obliged to be replaced by a skilful dentist from the
mouth

mouth of a young chimney sweeper, before he could appear abroad; but he had, however, time sufficient for the operation, as it was six weeks before he was sufficiently recovered to join the party, who were by that time able to meet again as good friends as ever.

F O L L Y CIV.

THEY soon after made a party to dine and spend the day in the wood of Boulogne, and after an excellent dinner and plenty of champagne, went to enjoy the cool of the evening by rambling in the walks: they had not proceeded far before they were surprized by the sound of a very fine voice, and on advancing nearer, perceived a very genteel, elegant, but modest-looking Abbé, sitting under a tree, and entertaining himself by singing with great precision and judgment; the Marquis and his friends, who were disposed to be very merry, drew near the young man, who, seeing so many persons coming towards him, stopt abruptly, and rose to continue his walk; but they prevented him by forming

forming a circle round him, and desiring him in a very impertinent manner to continue his song for their amusement, which he politely declined; and, indeed, the manner in which the request was made excluded every possibility of a compliance, and he therefore persisted in his refusal very steadily: they were piqued at what they deemed obstinacy, and shewed themselves determined to hear him, and at length provoked by his silence, one of them, the Count D'Arbannes, drew his sword, and pointing it close to the breast of the Abbé, swore he would instantly run him through the body, unless he sung immediately; the others drew their's likewise, and the Abbé, though a man of courage, yet being unarmed, saw himself in a very perilous situation, and in the absolute power of a set of men whom he had not the least doubt would put their

their threats in execution; he was therefore obliged to comply without further hesitation; but as the voice is seldom in tune when the will is wanting, they found his singing by force so extremely ridiculous that the woods resounded with peals of laughter; and after they had sufficiently tormented him by obliging him to sing all the songs they could think of, they let him go, and remained extremely diverted by having so unexpectedly met with so entertaining an adventure.

F O L L Y CV.

IT happened, however, unfortunately for them, that this Abbé was a young man, who had been in the army, but by some transition of circumstances having met with friends better able to provide for him in the church, he had resigned the sword and hat and feather in favour of an habit which announced peace to all the world; and, being in expectation of a benefice, he lived a retired life in Paris, cultivating his taste for music, having (as already observed) the advantage of a very fine voice.

F O L L Y CVL.

THE Abbé could not so far divest himself of the idea of his former profession, but that he still retained a very nice sense of the honour of a gentleman, and felt the most poignant anguish at having been thus grossly insulted. Just after he had left the place he met with a labouring man, to whom he pointed out his persecutor Count D'Arbannes, and giving the man a direction where to meet with him, promised him a louis if he would watch the Count home, and bring him word who he was, and where he lived. Having taken this most probable method to procure the wished-for information, he returned to Paris so exceedingly shocked and ashamed of the treatment he had re-

ceived, that he pulled his hat over his eyes, and scarce dared look any person whom he met in the face: his emissary came to him very late in the evening, and informed him very accurately of the name, quality, and residence of his enemy; and the Abbé, who was overjoyed at having procured the wished-for intelligence, dismissed him with the promised reward, went to bed, and passed the night with the greatest tranquility. He rose very early, and having but lately laid aside his regimentals, he had them still in his possession, and putting on a suit of them, he went instantly to the hotel of Count D'Arbanes, when being admitted, he informed him that he was the person whom he had insulted in the wood the evening before, and that he was come to demand satisfaction; and therefore insisted on his accompanying him to the same place immediately: the
 Count

Count was but just risen, scarce awake, and hardly remembered the transaction of the night before, much less recollected the person of the metamorphosed Abbé; but being really a brave man, he made no scruple to obey the summons, dressed himself in haste, put on his sword, got with him into an hackney coach, and soon arrived at the tree where they had met the evening before. The Count drew his sword, and retreating a few paces, put himself in a posture of defence, but the Abbé instantly presenting a loaded pistol; “Stop, (said he), we are not as yet on an equal footing; you forced me to sing against my will, and you shall now danceto please me.” In vain the Count expostulated that the sword was the only method to revenge the affront a gentleman had received, without any other retaliation whatever; the Abbé

calmly refused to listen to any sollicitation, and told him coolly he would blow his brains out instantly if he did not comply : the Count protested he never danced, that it was an exercise he never used ; that he had sprained his ankle, and was incapable of dancing even if he wished it ; but every entreaty or excuse were equally vain. With the pistol levelled at his head, the Abbé obliged him to begin and dance alternately the Minuet de la Cour, Gavote, Rigadoon, and Allemande, which the Count having complied with, the Abbé fired his pistol in the air, drew his sword, and declared he was now ready to give the Count satisfaction in the way he chose to demand it : vexed to the very soul at the treatment he had met with, he fought with more passion than prudence, and was quickly disarmed by the Abbé, who instantly granted him his

life,

life, in a manner which did honour both to his generosity and humanity. The Count could not but admire the bravery of his conduct, and the steadiness he had shewn to return the insult he had met with; but as the Count naturally concluded this new method of teaching singing and dancing, would be a good deal talked of, he thought it prudent to make a journey into Italy for a few months 'till it was a little forgotten.

F O L L Y CVH.

A FEW similar circumstances put a stop to the lively fancy, displayed so evidently in the frolicks of the Marquis and his companions; and he, in particular, resolved for the future, to confine his pleasure to the short lived triumph over venal beauty, the seduction of innocence, nocturnal riot, and other libertine adventures he might meet with, without deviating from the character of a gentleman; and in pursuance of this resolution, the dress which had afforded him so much entertainment, being too shabby to merit the acceptance of any of the valets, descended so far as to equip one of the kitchen boys.

F O L L Y CVIII.

IN the mean time, the Marchioness D'Illois became daily more and more a woman of the world ; and made a very rapid progress in every accomplishment of a fashionable wife : it would be needless to expatiate on the folly of her conduct, her future behaviour will best evince the impropriety of her actions.

F O L L Y C I X.

ONE day as Madame D'Illois was in her carriage for the benefit of air and exercise, with all the glasses closely up, and reclined on eider down cushions, her ears were struck by the cries of a little dog; she looked out of the window and saw a poor ragged Savoyard who had got a cord round the neck of a very small spaniel, going to take it towards the river; the Marchioness stopped her coach. "Ah! (said she) what a beautiful creature, bring that charming dog hither to me, that I may kiss him." It happened however, that this charmer was a little nasty, mangy dog, so miserably old and troublesome, that
the

the owner had given the Savoyard a small sum, to be at the trouble of drowning him: the Marchioness admired and caressed him with transport; "Friend (said she) what will induce you to sell me this dog?" The arch fellow took care not to tell her, on what errand he was going, but pretended he brought him to wash every morning; and assured the Marchioness, that the lady to whom he belonged, would not trust him with any other person in the world, as she was so fond of her dog she hardly suffered him out of her sight; adding, that if he had a mind to have sold him, he might have had any money for him, one of the princesses having taken a fancy to him but the last week:—Madame D'Illouis was now determined to purchase him at any price, and eagerly asked, what sum would prevail on him to part with him; the

man, almost afraid to ask so unconscionable a price, was going to say a louis, when on his hesitation, she took out her purse, and putting five louis into his hand before he could answer her, ordered the coachman to drive on, and left the Savoyard astonished at his good fortune; and she went on overjoyed at being in possession of so beautiful an animal.

F O L L Y CX.

ENCHANTED with the treasure she had so happily obtained, Madame D'Illois hastened home, and, on her arrival, put her servants all in motion to embellish her new purchase; one washed him with soap, another rubbed him dry, a third combed him, and her woman, whose taste in dress was undisputed, made him an elegant collar, and ornamented his ears and tail with a profusion of rose-coloured ribbon; thus adorned, the Marchioness declared him the sweetest dog in the world, and became fond of him to such excess, that she took him where ever she visited; he slept on her bed every night, and lay on her lap all day; though being very fat and clumsy, half his weight on the knees of a much less delicate woman than Madame D'Illois, wou'd almost have been sufficient to have fatigued her to death.

F O L L Y CXL

COntemptible as these caprices may appear, happy had it been for the Marchioness had such only marked the extent of her folly, and all her favourites been of the dumb kind; but a young abbé publicly triumphed over the virtue of Madame D'Illouis, and the honour of her husband; and the assiduity of his attendance announced to the world, a secret neither of them scarce took pains to endeavour to conceal.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CXII.

ON her return home one evening, she perceived she had lost one of her diamond ear-rings, worth fifteen thousand livres; this was a large sum of money; she was unable to replace the loss out of her own purse, and was equally certain the Marquis would not assist her, (as she had sufficient reason to suppose he rather repented the money laid out on jewels for her before): to go without so essential an article of dress was impossible: she was therefore inconsolable in her grief, and indefatigable in her endeavours to recover it; she sent to every place she had been to that evening; distributed hand bills all over Paris, but in vain; several days elapsed and she heard not any news of the lost diamonds.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y CXIII.

IN a week's time, finding it impossible ever to regain her loss, the Marchioness consoled herself for her misfortune; and determined not to give herself any further concern about the matter: she resumed her usual vivacity, and declared, "It was so foolish to be the possessor of one ear-ring, that she wished with all her heart she had lost them both." A very distant relation fortunately died in less than a fortnight after this adventure, and left her a legacy to a considerable amount, by which means Madame D'Illinois saw herself enabled to purchase another ear-ring; but not contented with merely replacing the one, she determined to have a pair infinitely larger, handsomer,

former, and higher priced, than those she
 had lost; and pleased herself with the
 idea of the mortification it would be
 to her female acquaintance, who from
 envy had rejoiced in her misfortune, and
 who would now have the vexation to see
 her more richly adorned than before; and
 was delighted by the thought of the sur-
 prise her first appearance would create:
 she was interrupted from this reverie, by
 being told a person desired to speak with
 her, who insisted on being admitted
 immediately, as he brought her good
 news; on her giving orders for him to
 come in, she saw a grave, plain-drest man,
 who informed her, " he had found her ear-
 " ring in the street, the very evening she
 " had dropt it; but living a very retired
 " life, and being much engaged in philo-
 " sophic studies, he had kept it carefully
 " several days not knowing to whom it
 " belonged;

" belonged; but having that day been
 " at the coffee house, he had learnt
 " it was her's, and brought it im-
 " mediately." Madame D'Illois no
 sooner heard his errand than she was al-
 most ready to beat him, as it entirely
 deranged the scheme of finery she had
 been planning. " It is a very strange
 " thing (said she, to the poor amazed
 " man) that any one can take a delight
 " in living so stupid a life as you must
 " do, not to have heard what has for
 " this week past been the talk of all
 " Paris; and that you should shut your-
 " self up in such a manner as not to
 " know I had lost my ear-ring? If you
 " had brought it three days ago, I should
 " have been obliged to you; now I would
 " not give three sous for it; and, indeed,
 " I had much rather it had never been
 " found at all." The philosopher was
 almost

almost petrified by this reception; he hastened to regain the door, without uttering another syllable, and retired muttering to himself; "I have read (said he) in a famous English author, that woman is an animal who delighteth in finery; how then can I reconcile this creature's indifference with the ideas I have ever entertained of the ruling disposition of one of her species!

F O L L Y CXIV.

Fortune having thus disappointed the vanity of the Marchioness, by the unexpected restoration of her jewels, she sat seriously down to consider how she should expend the sum she had destined for this purpose : she had long wished to have a carriage more superb than her own, and now determined to indulge herself since she had so fair an opportunity ; therefore sent to the coachmaker, gave orders for a most magnificent equipage, with a positive command not to attend to expence, as she was determined it should exceed any thing of the kind ever yet seen in Paris ; and giving a loose to her very lively imagination, she herself chose

chose the subjects of the paintings, ordered the exact manner in which it should be gilt, the colour and form of the harness, and that the most able and skilful workmen should be instantly employed, and not quit it 'till it was entirely finished. When this brilliant carriage was compleated and brought home, at the first sight of it the Marchioness was nearly fainting with pleasure and surprize: it was a vis-à-vis, most elegantly shaped; all the paintings were done by a celebrated artist, whose pictures were held by the connoisseurs in high estimation: on the one side-pannel, were a group of beautiful Cupids, forming garlands of flowers, and covering with roses and myrtles a sleeping Venus reclined on a mossy couch; on the other side was the god of love, kneeling disarmed at the feet of Psyché, and pointing to a palace

at

at a distance, which seemed to be rising (by the assistance of Sylphs and Geniis) from the earth for an habitation for his lovely bride: in front was painted Hebe, the goddess of youth, receiving the united homage of the gods; and on the back the birth of Venus, just risen from the waves in a triumphal car of mother of pearl, and attended in procession by all the divinities of the sea: a very high varnish contributed greatly to embellish these beautiful paintings; all the leather to which the springs were fastened were of red morocco, embroidered with gold; the edges and spokes of the wheels were gilt to the nave; and the cushion behind for the footman to stand upon, was likewise morocco, with fringes and acorns of gold; six English horses, the swiftest and smallest that could be produced, drew this wonderful carriage, their heads ornamented

ed with large plumes of white feathers, their harness covered with green silk, studded with stars of the most beautiful paste, and with buckles of the same, which reflecting the rays of the sun, seemed to sparkle with a thousand different coloured fires, and dazzled the eyes of all who were so fortunate as to behold this miracle of modern taste and workmanship.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CXV.

THE first day Madame D'Illouis made use of her new equipage, she ordered the coachman to drive very slow, that the beauty and magnificence of the carriage might be seen ; her dress was equally brilliant, her head and neck was almost covered with jewels, and she wore a robe de la cour, of a beautiful pattern both for richness and fancy, trimmed with the highest taste, and in so elegant a manner that the ornamental part cost three times the value of the silk. The Marchioness elate with future triumph stepped into the vis-à-vis, secure of being the admiration and envy of all Paris ; but scarcely had she passed through a few streets before she heard hisses from every side, attended with a loud cry of " stop !

" stop !"

“stop!” The mob came running in crowds, and offered her a thousand insults; at length a party of guards arrived, who seized the reins of the horses, obliged the coachman to turn about, and conducted the fine carriage and beautiful owner of it to the house of the next magistrate.

F O L L Y CXVI.

ASTONISHED at the usage she received, Madame D'Illois wearied herself in expostulations with the guard, and repeated her assurances that they would severely repent this treatment of a woman of quality; they laughed at her anger, and despised her threats: the footmen who in vain undertook to defend her, received a shower of blows, were obliged to yield to superior numbers, and were dragged by the side of the carriage with their hands tied behind them. Resistance being vain, the Marchioness resolved to bear this insult patiently, assured that it would soon be in her power to punish the authors of it: when she came to the house of the magistrate; they obliged her to alight,

alight, and she waited in the anti-chamber, at least three quarters of an hour before she gained admittance to this subaltern officer of justice: enraged at being treated so cavalierly, she sent several times to let him know, "that she was
 " in haste, and had several engagements
 " on her hands; and that evening, was
 " particularly obliged to be at a ball,
 " where the whole company would wait
 " for her with impatience." Wearied at last by her importunities, he condescended to order "*that there* woman to be admitted." Madame D'Illois entered with precipitation, fully convinced that her appearance would reduce him to the necessity of making a proper apology for the mistake his people had committed; but so far from it, he received her with a frown, and did not offer to rise from an arm chair in which he was seated with

great gravity. " Ah! ah! Madam, (said
 " he) I am glad to see you here; you
 " have made a fine piece of work of it,
 " truly." The Marchioness was going
 to answer, but first meant to seat herself
 in an easy chair which stood behind her,
 when her conductors pulled her rudely
 by the arm, and obliged her to stand up.

F O L L Y CXVII.

“ **A** Y, (said the magistrate,) pride
 “ will have a fall ; ye are all of
 “ ye excessively proud, and ought to be
 “ humbled ; but we must have patience,
 “ we shall bring you to reason one at a
 “ time, and it is as well to begin with
 “ you as another. I wonder you are not
 “ ashamed to shew your face in such a
 “ fine coach ; it is enough to make all
 “ the honest women in Paris hang them-
 “ selves.” The Marchioness was so ex-
 ceedingly astonished at this address, that
 she was almost deprived of the power of
 making an answer, but her vanity being
 piqued by the conclusion, she recovered
 herself sufficiently to reply with a counte-
 nance full of disdain : “ I would have

M 2

“ you

“ you to know, Sir, that a woman in
 “ my stile of life, may not only gratify
 “ herself in any expence she pleases, but
 “ likewise have interest enough to make
 “ you repent the audacity of this beha-
 “ viour.” “ I am not to learn at these
 “ years (returned the magistrate) that
 “ ladies of your sort are very expensive ;
 “ thanks to the young men who supply
 “ this extravagance, whilst their honest
 “ creditors are unpaid : but with all your
 “ affectation and airs you are not less
 “ despicable ; yet, I think, at least, you
 “ should not carry your insolence so far,
 “ as to ape persons of quality in their
 “ equipage and liveries, which distin-
 “ guish them from the vulgar ; and
 “ your having footmen in livery in order
 “ to impose yourself on me and the
 “ world for a lady of distinction, is an
 “ aggravation of your crime, for which
 “ you

“ you deserve to be made an example;
 “ but you are not the first fine lady, who,
 “ having been at great expence for her
 “ carriage, has been obliged to ride in it
 “ to the very place to which I shall send
 “ you.” This stroke of pleasantry was
 highly applauded by the motley croud
 that surrounded the chair of the magis-
 trate. “ I see, (said the Marchioness,
 “ blushing with rage and indignation,)
 “ that there is some mistake in all this,
 “ and that you are ignorant that I am
 “ the Marchioness D’Illois :” at these
 words the whole assembly set up a loud
 laugh; and the magistrate, forgetting the
 gravity of his station, laughed louder than
 the rest.

F O L L Y CXVIII.

MADAME D'Illois could not conceive the reason of this treatment, it appeared to her to be a dream; in vain she repeatedly declared herself the wife of the Marquis D'Illois, the laugh redoubled at every assurance of it: finding they still refused to give credit to her protestations, she became almost frantic with rage, she stamped with her feet, wrung her hands, and even cried with vexation and despair; and to encrease her mortification, she was obliged to adopt a suppliant tone, and entreat, as a favour, that the Marquis might be sent for, who would convince them of the truth of her assertion: the magistrate to shew his sagacity gravely replied, " I doubt not but
" the

“ the young nobleman you mention, may
 “ be of the number of those who honour
 “ you with their protection, and in com-
 “ passion to your sex, I will comply with
 “ your entreaties, and send to desire him
 “ to come hither; we shall then see how
 “ he will treat his wife.” When the
 Marchioness found she had gained this
 point, she became more composed, and
 the magistrate more polite, as he began to
 suspect she was the favourite of a man of
 such distinction; he permitted her there-
 fore to sit down on a stool, whilst he re-
 mained lolling almost at full length in his
 chair, and having sent a messenger to
 Monsieur D’Illois, waited his return with-
 out any visible signs of impatience.

F O L L Y CXIX.

THE person dispatched on this commission, luckily found the Marquis at home ; and as he never believed the lady in custody to be more than an acquaintance of Monsieur D'Illois, he delivered his message according to that idea, in these words :—" A very fine lady, " (said he) who has been brought before " my master, desires your lordship's protection, and that you will come to her " immediately, and deliver her from her " present embarrassment, as she has been " obliged to say that she is your wife ; " that trick, however, would not pass " upon

“ upon my master, he hears those things
 “ too often to mind them.” The Marquis was far from suspecting that the Marchioness had any part in this adventure, and believed it to be some distressed damsel of his acquaintance, who had rather presumed on her imaginary right ; the answers of the emissary confirmed him in this belief : he took down, however, the direction, and curious to know which of his nymphs it could be, ordered his carriage, and promised to follow the man in a few minutes : the diligent messenger set out to prepare his master for the reception of his illustrious visitor, who did not, however, make the promised haste, for just as he was getting into his chariot, he met with his talyor, who came to consult with him on a new fashion, which the Marquis meant to introduce ; this being a business of importance, he turned

back again, and they were shut up together near three hours; but when this matter was finally settled, he got into his carriage, and ordered them to drive with all possible expedition to the house of the magistrate.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CXX.

IT had been very painful to Madame D'Illois to be reduced to the necessity of an application to her husband, she regretted it very sincerely, but the magistrate was too obstinate to give credit to any other testimony [than that of the Marquis himself, and her only apprehension was, lest Monsieur D'Illois should not be at home, as she had not the smallest doubt but when he heard of her situation, he would instantly come to her assistance: what then must be her astonishment, when three long hours elapsed, and they in vain waited his arrival? The magistrate smiled at this delay, which he

conceived justified his opinion of the Marchioness not being his wife, but he was a single man; had he been married, he would not have required any other proof in her behalf, than the very delay which he now interpreted so unfavourably.

F O L L Y CXXI.

AT length the Marquis arrived, on whose appearance the supercilious brow of the magistrate became smooth; he rose up, and even offered him his own chair. Monsieur D'Illois was extremely surprized at the sight of his lady in such a situation; this affectionate couple had not seen each other for three months before this unexpected meeting; he owned her, however, for his wife with the greatest politeness, and was excessively angry "that any one had dared to doubt it, and swore to make an example of those who had treated her so unworthily." The magistrate changed colour at this information, and began to fear

fear that his precipitation in this affair might be attended with very disagreeable consequences, he, therefore, made the meanest submission, and begged pardon of them both in the most abject manner.

F O L L Y CXXII.

THE Marquis, thinking it on the whole a very laughable affair, did not long retain his anger, but the Marchioness, who had been the sufferer, did not so easily forgive; but, at last, she condescended to be appeased, and the magistrate endeavoured to excuse his behaviour, by telling them, “ that
 “ he had received information that a
 “ certain lady, more celebrated for
 “ beauty than virtue, was that day
 “ to make her appearance in a new
 “ splendid carriage, and that his orders
 “ were, to positively oblige her to give
 “ up her equipage, or to send her to
 “ the

“ the hospital if she refused ; chance
 “ so ordered it, Madam, (continued
 “ he) that your beautiful vis-à-vis came
 “ out on to-day, therefore, I hope it
 “ will plead my excuse, then, though
 “ I shall ever deem myself to blame,
 “ for my want of discernment, in not
 “ at once distinguishing your beauty and
 “ appearance from that of a kept wo-
 “ man.” This well turned compliment
 entirely pacified the Marchioness, and
 made the Marquis smile : the magistrate
 perceiving his eloquence thus graciously
 received, continued, “ Nothing could,
 “ I think, possibly have influenced my
 “ conduct so far, as to behave with rûde-
 “ ness to such a lady, except the natu-
 “ ral horror and antipathy I bare and
 “ ever have borne to those profligate
 “ women, whose name is a disgrace to
 “ their sex ; they have ever seemed to
 “ me

“ me worthy of the most exemplary punishment ; I never have shewn them
“ the least mercy, neither can I conceive how a man who possesses common sense, can be for an instant deceived by their dissembled caresses.”

F O L L Y CXXIII.

THE talkative magistrate would possibly have continued his eloquence, in order to prove his innate love of virtue, but, to say the truth, his auditors were tired, and took their leave, convinced no doubt of the austerity of his manners, if not charmed with his politeness : but unfortunately the Marchioness had on a very large hoop, and in sailing out of the room in a fashionable manner, she threw down a large six leaved screen, which stood half drawn, and discovered behind it, seated on a couch, a young girl, whose disordered, tawdry dress, and profligate appearance, declared at first sight
the

the infamy of her profession. Monsieur and Madame D'Illois laughed most immoderately at this proof of the occasional severity of this disciple of virtue, whilst the disconcerted magistrate remained fixed as if rooted to the ground, with his head sunk on his breast, his mouth half open, his eyes fixed on the floor, and his arms hanging straight down his sides: the Marquis to augment his confusion, addressing him as soon as he could recover his speech, "I am now (said he) an
 " eye-witness to your irregularities; you
 " persecute these unfortunate creatures,
 " in public declaim against them, yet
 " privately make their misfortunes subservient to the gratification of your
 " own vices."

F O L L Y CXXIV.

OVERwhelmed with these reproaches, the magistrate stood almost stupefied with fear and shame; at length he took courage, and affected to turn the whole affair into pleasantry, and evade the matter by giving it a ludicrous turn, and began to join in the laugh louder than the rest. “ Good God ! (said he) “ a very good joke, indeed,—a mere “ bagatelle ! but there are secrets in all “ professions, which we are sorry to have “ revealed *mal à propos* ; the truth is, “ this young lady is come to settle in “ my neighbourhood, and came here “ to-day

“ to-day to beg my protection ; it is then
 “ no more than justice that she should
 “ purchase it in the way of trade ; we
 “ were just settling the preliminaries,
 “ when the arrival of the Marchioness
 “ obliged me to put her behind the
 “ screen, and I hope I shall not incur
 “ your displeasure for merely exercising
 “ the privileges of my office.” This
 pleasantry had not the desired effect, the
 Marquis was disgusted by his familiarity,
 and the same vice which would have ap-
 peared mere gallantry in a man of fashion,
 seemed odious and disgusting in a ple-
 bian ; he, therefore, threatened to ex-
 pose his behaviour to those who had a
 right to punish him in a proper manner,
 and Madame D’Illois protested she would
 entertain every company she went into
 with this adventure : they then left him
 with expressions of the utmost contempt,
 and

26 FASHIONABLE FOLLIES.

and he remained exceedingly chagrined and terrified, whilst they on the contrary, far from exerting the promised revenge, forgot every part of the transaction before they turned the corner of the street.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CXXV.

BY an unusual excess of complaisance, the Marchioness permitted her husband to get into her vis-à-vis; he paid her many compliments on it's beauty, and the elegance of her taste, and being seated in a new carriage, opposite to so lovely a woman, drest in the highest stile, it had a good deal the air of adventure, and he could hardly believe but he was pursuing a new conquest; he, therefore, addressed her with the utmost tenderness, said a thousand flattering things of her beauty, sighed and pressed her hand with the utmost tenderness, and even declared a passion for her in the most ardent terms. The Marchioness was astonished, she looked upon
this

this sudden admiration as a proof of the power of her charms, when they could even metamorphose an husband into a lover; she looked on the Marquis, and once more thought him an amiable man, therefore heard him with complaisance, and affected such an air of sensibility and modesty, that the Marquis was in raptures; earnestly did he endeavour to prevail on her to devote to his society the remainder of that day, but in vain; she had been engaged for some time to go to a ball at the Duke of ———; she was drest for admiration, and did not chuse to give up what she had taken such pains to obtain, and her self-love was by no means sufficiently gratified with a triumph over her husband only; at length he grew more pressing from denial, and entreated with all the eloquence he was master of, that she would permit him

him to sup with her in her own apartment on her return *tête-à-tête*;—she hesitated—he insisted—and at last she gave the wished-for permission, to which he obliged her to add a promise to come home early; and he quitted her once more absolutely in love.

F O L L Y CXXVI.

THE entertainment given by the Duke of ———, was one of the most splendid that can be conceived; it was in honour of a foreign nobleman, the manners of whose country were so simple, and the court from which he came, so void of luxury, that it was not even in his power to judge of the magnificence with which he was received, or form the least idea of the liberality of the donor; he was to quit the kingdom the next morning, and that he might leave it with a proper impression of the grandeur of the French nation, the Duke treated him that night at the expence of half his yearly income; a concert, with which the stranger seemed absolutely wearied, began the evening; the

the supper was a repast both sumptuous and delicate, but which neither being the food he was used to eat, nor dressed in the plain manner in which he was accustomed to have his victuals prepared for him, he could not partake of with pleasure; the latter part of the evening, the company assembled in a large ball-room, where he was obliged to sit three hours to see dancing, the confused form of which he could not comprehend, and where the croud was so great, it was impossible for the dancers to move without the greatest difficulty; for which reason it became so fashionable to dance, that every one was ambitious of being engaged in the set.

F O L L Y CXXVII.

MADAME D'Illois' beauty and figure soon gained her admission amongst the dancers, and she danced with redoubled pleasure, as she heard encomiums on her grace and sprightliness echoed from every side by the men, tho' the women were so far of a contrary opinion, that they declared her both awkward and ill-dressed; but sufficiently gratified by the praises of the male part of the assembly, she despised those of the females, whose criticism she looked upon as the mere result of envy and ill-nature. Her favoured lover, the Abbé, whose profession excluded him from dancing, was a witness of the admiration and pleasure she excited, and at the end of every dance

dance brought her refreshments with the most assiduous attention, and said at the same time a thousand flattering things on her superior excellence and beauty. The Marchioness captivated by pleasures and alive to every sensation of vanity, was so charmed by his assurances of increasing and everlasting love, that she listened with delight, forgot her appointment with the Marquis, and had the weakness to consent to his entreaty of permitting him to follow her home, and spend that night, (as he had done many others) in her apartment: having thus far prevailed, he was content to mix with the croud that followed her to her carriage, and then to avoid suspicion, returned for half an hour to the ball-room.

F O L L Y CXXVIII.

THE Marchioness, (who returned tired and fatigued with dancing,) undressed and went to bed immediately; and having dismissed her women, (who knew too much of high life ever to enter her apartment, unless they were rung for), she remained with great tranquillity, expecting the arrival of the Abbé, who had a key to the garden gate, and another of the door of a pair of back stairs which led from a terrace directly into the apartment of Madame D'lllois. The Marquis) who did not doubt but his wife would stay late at the ball, though she had promised to retire early,) had accepted a party made by some young noblemen to the *petit souper* of a courtizan, where he amused himself by permitting

permitting the mistress of the house, and some of her friends to cheat him at cards of a very considerable sum of money; but when the clock struck three, concluding the Marchioness must be then returned, he left the joyous circle, and hastened home, where he made the best of his way to his lady's apartments: the servants, who were still in the anti-chamber, were astonished at this visit, but having a confused remembrance of his being Madame D'Illois' husband, they suffered him to pass, as they knew not the very particular reason she had at that time not to grant him admittance; yet, concluded she would be much surprised at the sight of so unexpected a visitor. The Marquis just entered as the Abbé was sitting before the glass disposing of his curls to the best advantage, beneath a rose-coloured

latten night cap, richly ornamented with fine lace, which he conceived to be infinitely becoming; and being a man of professed galantry, and always uncertain where, or with whom he should sleep, he had long taken the precaution of carrying it constantly in his pocket. As soon as Mons. D'Illois appeared, the Marchioness recollected her unfortunate engagement to him, and was ready to expire with confusion; the Abbé rose from his toilette on this unexpected intrusion, but had not time even to endeavour to conceal himself, whilst Monsieur D'Illois was transfixed with astonishment on finding the Abbé in the Marchioness' apartment so very unexpectedly.

F O L L Y CXXIX.

AN old fashioned, vulgar husband would have instantly ordered the Abbé to have been thrown out of the window, but to the well-bred Marquis this scene appeared so extremely comic, that he laughed most immoderately, and his extraordinary mirth so very unseasonable, though an additional source of confusion to the Abbé, gave the Marchioness some time for recollection, who addressing herself to the Marquis with great gravity, “ Cease, Sir, (said she) “ this unbecoming gaiety; learn, that “ the gentleman present is a very respectable person, whose pious advice I “ have long followed in all religious “ matters, and, after having made an

N 5 assignation

“ assignation with you for this evening,
 “ it appeared to me to have so much the
 “ air of an intrigue, that it was not
 “ possible to reconcile it to the nice
 “ sensibility of a woman of virtue; I
 “ felt, therefore, infinite repugnance to
 “ comply with it, and as I had been
 “ very uneasy during the time of the
 “ ball, I called as I came from the
 “ Duke’s on this pious man, to lay
 “ before him the scruples of my con-
 “ science, and request his advice on so
 “ delicate a subject; he was gone to
 “ bed, and came down to me in haste,
 “ (concluding the business was urgent,)
 “ when, without giving him time to new
 “ dress his hair, I brought him hither
 “ immediately, where I could at leisure
 “ listen to his arguments, and that he
 “ might likewise have an opportunity to
 “ acquaint you with his decision.”

FOLLY

F O L L Y CXXX.

AT the conclusion of this fine speech, (which had not even the shadow of probability,) Monsieur D'Illois laughed yet louder than before; and the rose-coloured night cap giving great cause to suspect the severity of the Abbé's virtue, he called in the servants from the anti-chamber, and ordered them to treat this director of consciences with a good drubbing, and then to turn him into the street, "That he may ever remember for
 " the future (said the Marquis), that it
 " is a very great breach of politeness
 " and respect to visit a lady in his night
 " cap." The Abbé on hearing this sentence threw himself on his knees, and begged forgiveness in the most abject
 N 6 manner,

manner, but in vain, for the Marchioness, enraged at his cowardice and mean behaviour at this exigence, ordered them to bestow a few more blows on him on her account, to revenge (she said) his severe and frequent reprehensions on her too great fondness for public diversions: the footmen, who enjoyed exceedingly the caning an Abbé with impunity, executed their orders with great alacrity, and then putting him out of the door, wished him good night.

F O L L Y CXXXI.

THE Marquis remained with the Marchioness, and left her in the morning without the least reproof for her ill conduct, or ever once seeming to suspect that any dishonour had been intended him; he then took leave of her with the greatest politeness, and went to drink chocolate with a celebrated tragic actress, whose person had pleased him in the last new piece, and whom he thought worthy to appear in the character of his favourite sultana. The gentleman was generous, and the lady complying, so that matters could not be long settling to their mutual satisfaction; the Marquis promised on his part five-and-twenty louis a month, the nymph, the fondest attachment and unshaken fidelity.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y CXXXII.

THE Marquis generally changed his mistress every eight days at least, therefore, this kind of treaty suited him exactly, and he determined for the future to confine his amours to ladies easy of access; and as variety could be so cheaply obtained, he thought it would be a pleasant frolick to keep at the same time an actress of each theatre; therefore, having arranged matters with this disciple of Melpomene, he next paid his devoirs to the prettiest figurer at the opera, who, though she did not excel in the science she professed, was a fine, well-shaped girl of seventeen, whose bewitching eyes, joined to a kind of childish playfulness in her manner, gained her many

many admirers, and she had the offer of jewels and settlements from many lovers at the same time; as yet, however, she affected exemplary modesty : her eyes were fixed to the ground, as if unable to support the ardent gaze of admiration, and the blush of innocence seemed still to glow upon her cheek. The Marquis resolved to triumph over a croud of contending rivals, and every night he paid constant attendance to her behind the scenes, where, finding his assiduities graciously received, and that she listened to his flattery with visible preference, he one evening ventured to make proposals for bringing the affair to a conclusion ; “ Come, “ (said he) my charming Adelaide, let me “ hope you mean to be mine, deign to “ fix your own terms, and be assured, “ whatever sum can purchase your compliance, shall be your’s.” The fair one
looked

looked grave, hesitated, and then replied,
 “ You are very good, very generous, Sir
 “ —but this is an affair in which I am not
 “ at liberty to act for myself—it is a mat-
 “ ter which must be entirely regulated
 “ by my mama.” The Marquis pleaded
 with her, and used all the rhetoric he was
 master of, to prevail on her to speak her
 own terms ; entreaties were vain, he could
 not obtain any other answer, than, “ that
 “ her mama would be glad to see him at
 “ eleven the next day.”

FOLLY

F O L L Y CXXXIII.

THE Marquis was too anxious to terminate this important affair, not to be exact to the hour she mentioned; and on being introduced to the pretended mama, she heard his proposals with attention, and pondered on them in silence; at length, “ Sir, (said she to the Marquis, gravely,) we may, perhaps, settle this affair, for it now draws near the time in which I wish to fix Mademoiselle Adelaide in a proper situation; merit and person are not of consequence in the favoured lover of the ladies of the opera, they are obliged to chuse those who can best repay the expence, in some degree which their
parents

“ parents have been at in their educa-
 “ tion, therefore my determination has
 “ long been fixed that she shall accept
 “ the most liberal lover, and have made
 “ her solemnly promise to submit every
 “ proposal to my wisdom and expe-
 “ rience. This condition she has
 “ faithfully complied with, and I re-
 “ gularly give audience every morning
 “ to hear the terms of different gentle-
 “ men, register the names, quality,
 “ and offers of each, carefully in a book
 “ I keep for that purpose.”

: FOLLY

F O L L Y CXXXIV.

WHEN the provident mama had said this, she rose, and unlocking a table drawer, took out a book with a parchment cover, then putting on her spectacles turned over a great number of leaves with great earnestness and application, making at the same time calculations on her fingers; the Marquis sat in silent astonishment, wondering what would be the event of all this; the old woman continued to mutter to herself, and would shake her head frequently for some time; at last she took off her spectacles, and addressing Monsieur D'Illois with great gravity,

gravity, " I wish you joy, Sir, (said
 " she) Adelaide is your's ; your offers
 " are the most truly generous of any of
 " her lovers ; you deserve such a treasure,
 " for never was there a more innocent
 " heart ; and I really think the surrender
 " I make to you of so lovely a girl, de-
 " serves an hundred louis for a new gown
 " for my-self, besides the fifty per month
 " you are to pay her ; but if you refuse to
 " comply with this small gratuity to me,
 " our treaty is at an end, if not, she is
 " your own." The Marquis agreed to
 these conditions, and Adelaide being
 called, declared with blushes, that he,
 of all her lovers, had alone made suffi-
 cient impression on her heart to induce
 her to wish that he might meet with the
 approbation of her mama ; yet, such was
 the reserve and delicacy of her senti-
 ments and behaviour, that it was near
 three

three days before he could prevail on her to admit him as a favoured lover, though both mama and herself acknowledged "such was her predilection in favour of the Marquis from the first moment she beheld him, that her heart must have been absolutely broken, had not the generosity of his offers been worthy her acceptance."

FOLLY

F O L L Y CXXXV.

SOON after his conquest over this vestal of the theatre, the Marquis paid his devoirs to the loveliest of the Italian singers: a fine figure, and a pair of large black eyes had obtained her the preference of the Marquis over the rest of her companions; but on his first lucrative proposition, the generous creature burst into tears: “To what am I reduced
 “ (said she, in a tone of indignation)
 “ that you should for a single moment
 “ suppose me capable of selling myself
 “ for interest? Can you love me, and
 “ yet wish me to become the object of
 “ so vile a passion? The heart of a
 “ lover like you is a sufficient prize; I
 “ accept

“ accept it with pleasure, yet disdain
“ every fordid idea of gain.” The Marquis was surprized to the last degree to meet with a disinterested woman ; he was charmed with the generosity of her mind, and used every art and every delicate attention to gain the heart of this sentimental nymph, whose virtue was at length so far subdued as to grant him an assignation gratis.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME:

THE FASHIONABLE POLITICAL

"accept it with pleasure, but I shall
"everybody's idea of gain." The Min-
"is was supposed to be the last degree to
"with a dissatisfied woman, he was
"character with the generosity of her mind,
"and his every word and every action as
"tion to gain the heart of this feminine
"and his every word and every action as
"the object as to gain him an influence
"the state."



END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

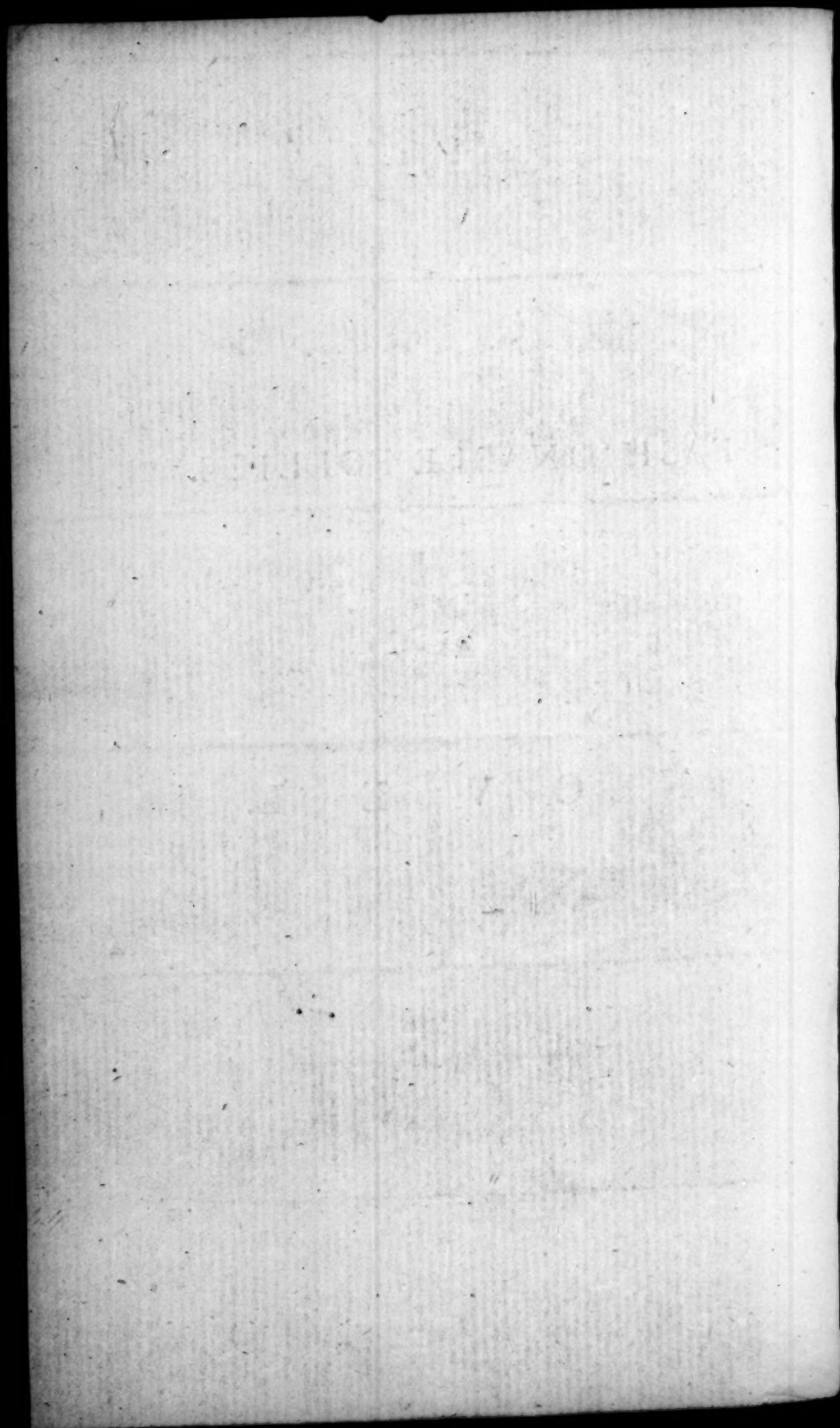
Sylvester Esq

From the Author

FASHIONABLE FOLLIES.

A

N O V E L.



FASHIONABLE FOLLIES.

A

N O V E L.

CONTAINING

T H E H I S T O R Y

• F. A

P A R I S I A N F A M I L Y.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

Τὴν γὰρ αἰδὴν μᾶλλον επικλείουσ' ἄνθρωποι,
ἥτις ἀκρόντεσσι νεωτάτῃ ἀμφιπέληται.

Hom. Odyss.

For NOVEL LAYS attract our ravish'd ears;
But OLD the mind with inattention hears.

Pope, Ib.

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L O N D O N:

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M.DCC.LXXXI.

FASHIONABLE FOLLIES

NOVEL

THE HISTORY

PARISIAN FAMILY

IN TWO VOLUMES.



44

9. 89. 7.

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FASHIONABLE FOLLIES.

F O L L Y CXXXVI.

ON the evening appointed, he hastened after the opera, to the apartment of the charming Italian, who received him with transport, and had provided an elegant and expensive supper; after which the Marquis again requested her to accept of a proper establishment, but in vain: “ You are the lover of my
“ choice, (said she) all I possess is your’s,

VOL. II.

A 3

“ and

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“ and my future happiness will consist in
“ shewing you that the merit, not the for-
“ tune of a lover, entitles him to my
“ affection.” Monsieur D’Illois was
enraptured with the refinement and deli-
cacy of her sentiments, and determined
to seek a favourable opportunity to con-
vince her of his generosity: happily,
it was not long before fortune was in this
particular favourable to his wishes—he
did not return home that night, and the
very next morning, whilst they were sit-
ting at breakfast, there entered the room
a mercer and a jeweller, who, after having
properly apologized for their intrusion,
“ We called, Madam (said they) to know
“ whether you have any commands for
“ us, this being the time of year we
“ have been always honoured with your
“ orders.” “ It is true, (said the disinte-
“ rested fair one) but I have been parti-
“ cularly

“ cularly unfortunate, my salary has not
 “ been regularly paid; I am poor and
 “ cannot afford what I used to do, as you
 “ well know I never accept of presents
 “ from any one, therefore, have not the
 “ resources of interested women: I am
 “ now engaged; if you will return when
 “ this gentleman is gone, I will look over
 “ the articles you have brought, and
 “ supply myself with what I can pay for,
 “ as debts, you know, are my aversion;
 “ but pray, go now, as I shall not buy
 “ any thing whilst the Marquis is here.”

Monsieur D’Illois declared, he positively
 liked to see fine things, and wished to be
 a judge of her taste, and used so many
 entreaties, that at last she consented he
 should stay. The mercer unfolded several
 rich fashionable silks; the jeweller
 displayed watches, rings, snuff boxes,
 locketts, and trinkets of various sorts;

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the lady saw several she liked, but observed they were all too dear: the Marquis, on the contrary, declared he thought the prices very reasonable, and begged her acceptance of any toys or silks she wished to have, but she protested against it with great firmness, and refused every thing he offered; at length she drew the mercer towards the window to agree with him for the price of a silk, and whilst she was so engaged, Monsieur d'Illois gave the jeweller his address, with strict orders that he should suffer her to select what articles she liked, and, on his return home, ordered him to send the bill to the Marquis's steward, who would discharge it immediately. Whilst she was talking with the jeweller, he practised the same artifice with the mercer, but not so secretly but she discovered the deceit, to her infinite

nite regret, as she had chosen several things of each; but vain were all her generous resolutions, as the tradesmen were gone, and the valet who was sent after them could not overtake them; and, as if every thing united to distress her, they were travelling merchants who came from a distant province, and she knew not where they were to be met with. Thus the Marquis had the satisfaction of presenting his charmer with the value of twenty thousand francs, and yet returned home with the sincerest admiration of her disinterested love, and fully convinced of the great generosity of her sentiments.

F O L L Y CXXXVII.

THE Marquis regretted not sums so spent, however considerable, whilst they satisfied his caprices, and he kept his three mistresses in great splendor, though he had such a variety of engagements that he seldom visited any of them; and whenever he went to his little dancer, he was obliged to use some kind of precaution in his introduction, for she had made him promise never to come but by night, and without a carriage, "That the only foible in her character (she told him) might be still a secret to the neighbours." The Marquis, who was good natured, was easily prevailed on to gratify her in this particular, besides an air of mystery in an intrigue was a novelty

novelty he did not dislike; he used, therefore, to go to her on foot, wrapt up in a long cloak after midnight, and letting himself in at a garden gate, creep softly to her apartment, and this only when it had been regulated between them the day before, as she could not submit to be looked upon by him as an easy fair one who must submit to receive his visits whenever he pleased. Indeed, so rare is it to possess an opera dancer who admits only one lover, that such a phenomenon ought to be treated with uncommon tenderness and delicacy.

F O L L Y CXXXVIII.

IN one of these nocturnal visits, the Marquis was extremely surprised to find his Adelaide bathed in tears; in vain did she endeavour to wear a smile on his appearance, and dissemble her sorrows, whilst the officious mama strove without success to administer consolation to the weeping beauty. Alarmed at her despair, Monsieur D'Illois insisted on being made acquainted with her grief, but she returned no other answer than sighs; the Marquis at length conjured her not to conceal the cause any longer, and swore most solemnly he would do all in his power to dissipate her uneasiness, and make her happy. Overcome by these promises she wiped her lovely eyes, and looking tenderly on him, " I am,

" (said

“ (said she) indeed, distressed and un-
 “ happy to the last degree ; all my com-
 “ panions at the theatre despise me,
 “ and treat me with a contempt I cannot
 “ bear ; they laugh at me, and say my
 “ appearance is a discredit to them, nor
 “ can I deny it, as they are most of
 “ them covered with jewels, have each
 “ rich bracelets, superb necklaces, and
 “ large diamond ear-rings, whilst I have
 “ only two or three shabby brilliant pins,
 “ which look so miserably when com-
 “ pared with their’s, that I blush when-
 “ ever I am forced to place myself by
 “ them on the stage ; and this night (to
 “ complete my mortification), little Vic-
 “ toria, who is frightfully ugly, came
 “ in, adorned with a suit of diamonds
 “ that ought to have been mine, for
 “ they were given her by that booby of
 “ an English lord who made proposals
 “ to.

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“ to me : when I saw her thus ornamented I was ready to sink with shame and confusion, and I believe it will break my heart.” She again burst into tears, and the Marquis vainly endeavoured to pacify her, ’till at length distressed by her uneasiness, he swore to her, that the next evening she should surpass her companions in magnificence as well as beauty. The sudden revolution this promise made in the fair one’s disposition was astonishing; she became lively, gay and entertaining, and charmed the Marquis so much, that after he quitted her next morning, he went instantly to his jeweller’s, and sent by a faithful valet to her toilette, a shagreen case, the richness and beauty of it’s contents soon banished all sorrows, and left her not any reason to envy Victoria, or any other of her companions.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CXXXIX.

THE Marchioness d' Illois whom we left very angry with her favourite the Abbé, from that time despised him very sincerely, and on his part the blows and indignity he had suffered on her account, made him hate her most cordially; the only question on the side of the Marchioness was, who should succeed him? The certainty of her connection with the Abbé, the levity of her conduct, and beauty of her person drew round her numbers of gay, dissipated young men of fashion, who had reason to hope her favours might without much difficulty be obtained; the general homage paid to her charms embarrassed her in her choice, and though her determination was to accept a lover, it was for some time difficult to say which was the happy man she intended to prefer.

F O L L Y

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F O L L Y

F O L L Y CXL.

AT last, however, it happened that the Marchioness one evening at a ball, at a friend's house, met with the Viscount De l'Encluse ; he was a tall boy, just turned of nineteen, in the bloom of youth ; the lustre of health glowed on his cheeks ; an animated complexion, sparkling eyes, and white even teeth, gained him the admiration of most of the ladies ; he was well shaped for his size, but rather inclined to fat, he was audacious, lively and familiar in his behaviour among women, and most of those with whom he conversed, liked him the better for the impertinence with which he addressed them : his character was
not

not so amiable as his figure ; he was both malicious and spiteful, would repeat and propagate scandal of those to whom he professed friendship ; was particularly satirical on the conduct of women, as his adventures among the worthless part of the sex had been so many that he had from thence imbibed an illiberal notion of all. This was the man with whom Madame D'Illois became captivated at first sight ; she thought him the most entertaining, agreeable creature in the world, and as he treated her with very little ceremony, she encouraged him by laughing at the scandalous anecdotes he told of her acquaintance, and permitted him great liberties in his conversation, not doubting but when she chose to assume a different mode of behaviour, she could easily awe him into a proper respect ; but the Viscount was too much used to the advances
of

of the ladies, not to perceive the impresson he had made on the Marchioness, or to be so easily repulsed: her partiality to him was too apparent to be denied, he therefore attached himself to her, and the Marchioness already more than half vanquished by the depravity of her own inclination, yielded in a very short time to her new lover, and became as compleatly ridiculous towards him in her behaviour as any of those unfortunate women whose histories he had entertained her with.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CXLI.

THE Viscount, by a very extraordinary effort and most surprising taciturnity, kept the secret of his conquest over Madame D'Illois for three whole days, at the end of which he was unable to resist the pleasure of relating it to some of his intimate friends, (after taking the precaution to swear them to secrecy, which they doubtless observed with the same delicacy he had done himself) ; but grown more negligent in a few days after, when he had finished his usual bottle of champagne, " Come, (he would say) let us drink a bumper to poor little D'Illois, the best woman in the world, and so partial to me that it is astonishing ; my acquaintance with her has been so short, that I am surprised

" prized myself at the rapidity of my
 " success. I may say with Cæsar, I
 " came, saw, and conquered. I have
 " not the honour of knowing the lady's
 " husband, but I am sure he has the
 " most easy, gentle-temper'd wife in Pa-
 " ris." Not content with treating her
 name with so little reserve amongst his
 companions, he prevailed on Madame
 D'Illois to give him her picture, which
 she readily granted, and looked on the
 request as a proof of his passion, little
 suspecting the purpose for which he in-
 tended it.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CXLII.

SOON after, the Marquis happened to meet the Viscount at a joyous supper, at the house of a friend; they were mutually pleased with each other's conversation; and the Marquis being much too polite ever to mention the name of his wife, most of the company (and the Viscount amongst the rest) looked upon him as a single man; before they parted, the Viscount engaged the whole party to spend the following evening at his house. They met at the time appointed; and wit, good humour, and plenty of champaigne made them still more gay than they were the night before; mirth and wine elated the fancy of the Viscount, and he began as usual to boast the number of his triumphs over the most celebrated beauties; and even
went

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went so far as to affirm, “ there was not
 “ a truly virtuous woman in the world,
 “ at least not one who might not be sub-
 “ dued by any man of person and ad-
 “ dress, if he thought it worth his while
 “ to give himself any trouble about her ;
 “ and to convince you (continued he)
 “ that *Lucretia*’s are in this age very rare
 “ to be met with, I will shew you the por-
 “ traits of those whom I have found to be
 “ very different creatures, and yourselves
 “ shall judge from the number of pic-
 “ tures in my possession, how many a
 “ monarch might obtain if he had a de-
 “ sire to become master of the pictures of
 “ all the condescending fair ones in the
 “ polished nations of the universe :” here
 he rose, and opened the door of a large
 elegant closet, whose walls were almost
 covered with pictures, and illuminated
 in an elegant taste ; they all rushed into
 it.

it with impatience ; and the first object that struck the sight of Monsieur d'Illois was the exact resemblance of his wife ; however well-bred a husband he might be, yet it would be a dishonour to human nature not to suppose he felt a very disagreeable sensation at this discovery ; but he disguised his emotion, and, with the calmness of a philosopher, attended to the Viscount, who enraptured at being thus surrounded with trophies so flattering to his self-love, pointed to each particular painting, and gave his friends a short, history of the fair one it resembled. “ The
 “ first, gentlemen, (said he) on my right
 “ hand, is old Madame de P—— ; no
 “ great addition to the collection I confess, but she was my first conquest
 “ among what is called virtuous ladies ;
 “ she it seems had a kind of curiosity
 “ to know how a boy of sixteen
 “ made

“ made love; and I, (out of a frolic)
 “ had a mind to try whether a woman of
 “ fifty would relish such a declaration:
 “ next to this old hag, (by way of con-
 “ trast) behold the young blooming Ce-
 “ lia; I pursued her five weeks with un-
 “ remitting ardor, but she condescended
 “ not to reward my passion till the very
 “ day before she married my most inti-
 “ mate friend the Count of R—: this
 “ little bewitching face (up higher) the
 “ Countess de Morun, who though she
 “ scruples not to grant favours to her
 “ lovers, has the delicacy to declare she
 “ still adores her husband with the most
 “ unabated fondness: this on your left,
 “ is the famous devotee Madame de M:
 “ who every day in public devoutly prays
 “ to heaven that she may be forgiven
 “ the sins she hourly commits in private:
 “ this haughty beauty is the Dutchess

De

“ De C——, who yielded to my wishes
 “ with a most petrifying air of gran-
 “ deur; but making use of the privi-
 “ lege of a favoured lover, and going
 “ rather abruptly into her apartment
 “ three days after, found her in the
 “ arms of a footman: that further lady,
 “ is the smiling princess of T—, who,
 “ when I hinted at noon in a whisper
 “ (after passing the night in her apart-
 “ ment) that I should be glad to repeat
 “ the assignation, turned from me and
 “ burst into a loud laugh; told me, she
 “ wondered at my assurance, that I ought
 “ to know that a *faux pas* in women
 “ of her rank, was a mere jest; and that
 “ she supposed I was not to learn that
 “ nothing could be more dull than the
 “ repetition of a joke.”

F O L L Y CXLIH.

IN this manner he ran over great numbers with the most surprising volubility, 'till he came at last to that of the Marchioness: " Here ! (said he, " turning to the Marquis), do you know " thi s young beauty ?" " I have seen " her (returned Monsieur D' Illois, rather embarras'd) : " *à propos* (continued De l'Encluse) she is your name " fake ; is she a relation ?" " very distantly, said the Marquis ;" " so much " the better, (cried the Viscount) I shan't " lose my story for all that ; these little " sparkling eyes and coquettish airs announce the vivacity of the disposition " of

“ of the Marchioness D’Illois ; and in
 “ truth so very lively is she, that she has
 “ scarce patience to wait for the offer of
 “ her lover’s heart, before she takes
 “ pains to convince him she means to
 “ accept of his person ; I speak from ex-
 “ perience : three days from the hour I
 “ first saw her, arranged matters between
 “ her and me ; but then I must do her
 “ the justice to say, she received an im-
 “ pression in my favour at first sight ;
 “ she is a charming, dissipated, lively
 “ creature—but I have had her these ten
 “ days ; and if it were to continue ten
 “ days longer ; I should think myself mar-
 “ ried to her—I would advise you,
 “ D’Illois, faith, to begin where I leave
 “ off. She would suit you exactly—her
 “ beauties are worthy a particular exami-
 “ nation ; come, you shall have a nearer
 “ view of my little goddess.” He then

took down the picture, and gave it into the hand of the Marquis, who endeavoured to look upon it with a smile, when at that very instant there entered a young man, a relation to Monsieur D'Illois, just come from college. " Ah ! (said he " to the Marquis) what do I see ! my " dear cousin enraptured with the portrait of his own wife. I never saw any thing so like since I was born." At this unexpected discovery the Viscount started with surprize, and seemed covered with confusion, and bursting into a loud laugh, " Well, gentlemen, said he, my blundering cousin here has discovered to " you the husband of the complaisant " lady whose history you have heard ; " but be assured, her conduct gives me " not the least disquiet, we are very happy people, and each amuse ourselves " our own way : I am not in the least " angry

“angry with the Viscount for endeavouring to make himself agreeable to a pretty woman because she is my wife; and one day or other, when he is so imprudent as to marry, I shall hope to return the compliment which is the only way I shall ever think of revenging the wrongs he has done me.” He then shook hands with the Viscount, and every one present declared he was a noble fellow, praised the manner in which he had received this intelligence to the skies, and unanimously agreed none but a fool would make himself the least uneasy about the conduct of a woman. “But what devil, (said the Marquis) brought you, cousin of the woeful countenance, hither at so critical a juncture?” “A most unaccountable adventure, upon my honour (said the young man) I have been nearly terri-

"fied out of my senses, and seeing your
 "carriage waiting at this door, was
 "glad to come in to recover my surprise;
 "and believe me, when you have heard
 "what I have to say, you will own my
 "fears have not been without foun-
 "dation."

F O L L Y CXLIV.

MYSELF and three other collegians, you must know, my dear cousin (said the intruder, whose name was the Chevalier D'Iricourt,) have been spending an evening together at * * * *, who, if he does make long bills, you have at least the satisfaction of having excellent ragouts for your money: we have been at table ever since ten; and what the devil wine he gave us I cannot tell, but it got into our heads before we had drank two bottles a man, and we began to laugh and hollow, and be very riotous; at last some one proposed breaking the glasses by way of frolic; when those were finished, we began on the china, then proceeded to throw three large looking-glasses into the street, as we all

B 4

agreed

agreed nothing can be more absurd than to have looking-glasses in an eating-room, and we were then endeavouring to lift out a large, old, lumbring sofa, being resolved nothing should positively remain but the table and chairs, when our landlord made his appearance frightened out of his wits, and on his humble remonstrances we were prevailed upon to be quiet; those who had money, paid their share of the bill and damages, and those who had none promised faithfully to make amends when they had; and this matter being fairly settled, we marched into the street just as the clock struck two, the night so totally dark there was not a star to be seen.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CXLV.

NONE of us having had the prudence to order our carriages, we crept along in the dark, feeling our way, and in imminent danger of breaking our necks. "Come, (said I to the rest) do not let us go to bed at this early hour like a parcel of sneaking citizens, let us be jovial, let us all go in this dirty trim to the masquerade, and our miserable appearance will save us the expence of a dress." They were delighted with my scheme, so on we went in mud over our shoe buckles, but praying very heartily that we might

soon meet with an hackney coach, to save
 us the remainder of so disagreeable a pe-
 rigrination; after some time we heard one
 advancing towards us; "Hollo! friend,
 " said we altogether, are you an hack-
 " ney coachman?" "Ay, that I am, to my
 sorrow, gentlemen, (answered he, endea-
 vouring to lash forward the wretched
 horfest hat dragged his coach along;) "I
 " am full now, continued he, but as I
 " am going only a few yards, if you will
 " stop here I will set down my fare, and
 " shall then be at your service for the
 " rest of the night." "Come (said
 " one of my companions) let us stop
 " this rascal, and see who those per-
 " sons are who dare to ride whilst we
 " are forced to walk on foot." We
 seconded this laudable design, seized
 the reins of the horses, opened the door,
 and my friend putting in his hand, "I
 " smoke

“ smoke it (said he) this is some pri-
 “ vate decampment, there is nothing
 “ in it but furniture, so let the dog
 “ go on, and we will follow him, and
 “ get in where he sets down his lug-
 “ gage.” He then shut the door, and
 though the coachman did not spare
 whipcord, we easily kept pace with the
 crazy machine which we had the pati-
 ence to follow through at least a dozen
 streets, expecting every moment he would
 be at his journey’s end. He came at
 last into this very street, and stopped
 before a little narrow gate-way which
 leads into a blind alley, a very few
 yards from hence, and drove up so very
 close to the wall, that I, who happen-
 ed to be the only one of the party on
 that side of the way, was forced to
 turn into a little alley to avoid the
 wheels: the obscurity of the place made

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it impossible for me to be perceived, and the coachman believing us all on the other side of the way, got down, and opened the coach door; a man immediately jumped out, and put a large bundle on his shoulders; with which the coachman came so very close to me that it brush'd against me, but with what horror and consternation was I possessed, when, by the light of a dark-lantern (which was suddenly opened by the man at the coach side to light the other in) I plainly perceived that these pretended goods were no other than dead bodies; sometimes I was touched by the leg of one of them—at the next turn a cold dangling hand came against my face; and now and then the head of one with force against mine; the man with the lantern was so fully convinced that the coast was clear, that he never
turned

turned the light in any other position but what served to gleam on their dreadful load, by which I discovered that each corpse was about half covered up in coarse linen cloth, just wrapped round it. Amongst others, was the body of an infant, whose face appeared swelled and livid. The air and mein of the wretch at the coach, encreased my apprehensions; he looked like a cut-throat, and under a loose horseman's coat which he wore, I could discern several daggers in a kind of belt. These wretches whilst thus employed held a conversation shocking to think of; which chiefly consisted of remarks on the objects before them; there is one (said the coachman) that is scarce cold now; how devilishly strong and robust he is! he had trouble enough to get out of this world so quickly,

and

and a good struggle for it, I warrant. These sort of observations were passed on each as they lugged them in; and I own to you my fears were such, that I was myself more dead than alive at that moment; I scarce breathed, and drew myself to the wall as close as possible; at last I concluded I must undoubtedly be murdered if I was perceived by them, and that I had better call my friends to my assistance, for the entrance was almost rendered impassable by the bodies being laid within it, in order, as I suppose, to clear the coach till they could dispose of them elsewhere. I tried several times to raise my voice, but the sound died upon my tongue; at length fear, by encreasing my panic, gave me utterance, and I gave so loud and piercing a cry, that the
curled

cursed coachman, and the assassin himself,
 both became immoveable; my friends
 alarmed for my safety, ran to my assist-
 ance, and turning aside the heads of the
 horses came into the alley, where I ex-
 pected my last moment was approach-
 ing. On the noise they made, the mis-
 creant opened the lantern and the hor-
 rid sight of so many carcases astonished
 them nearly as much as it had done me.
 "For God' sake! (said I) lay hold of that
 "villain, who having perpetrated such
 "a number of murders, conspires with
 "the coachman his accomplice, to
 "bring them hither to conceal his
 "crimes." At these words, my friends
 laid hold of them both, and it was now
 their turn to become pale and trembling;
 they looked on each other in silence,
 whilst my companions interrogated them
 with

with their drawn swords. I was glad to get into the street to recover my senses in a pure air, and perceiving your coach waiting at the door of the Viscount, thought I would step in and ask your advice, what ought to be done in this very extraordinary case.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CXLVI.

“ **A** Very extraordinary case, indeed,
 “ (replid the Marquis) let us
 “ all go and examine this affair direct-
 “ ly;” on which the whole company,
 with the Chevalier at their head, proceed-
 ed to the place just as the coachman and
 his companion were beseeching the three
 friends of Monsieur D’Iricourt not to
 ruin them. At the arrival of so many
 additional witnesses they were ready to
 sink into the earth. “ Do not waste
 “ time in talking to these wretches (said
 “ the Marquis) but take them before
 the

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“ the magistrate, who will in a proper
“ manner force them to confess the crimes
“ they have been guilty of, and inflict
“ on them the punishment due to their
“ wickedness.” “ Ah! gentlemen, for
“ heaven’ sake (said the person whom
“ they looked upon as the assassin) have
“ mercy upon me, and I declare so-
“ lemnly I will own to you the whole
“ truth : I am, then, you must know,
“ a poor practitioner in surgery, and
“ have, I confess, stolen from their
“ graves those bodies, for myself and
“ some other pupils to dissect. I beg
“ you will forgive me, and consider,
“ that the present war has made dead
“ men here at home so exceedingly dear,
“ that the grave diggers make us pay
“ double prices for those they procure;
“ I therefore gave this honest coach-
“ man a crown for his assistance, and
“ beg

“ beg ye to be merciful, for if this af-
 “ fair is discovered we shall inevitably
 “ perish in prison.” “ And these poign-
 “ ards (interrupted the Chevalier, vex-
 “ ed to the soul at this *denouement* of
 “ the supposed tragedy with which he
 “ had been so terrified ; those poignards
 “ hidden under your great coat, what
 “ were they intended for ?” “ Alas ! (said
 “ the frightened skeleton-monger) they
 “ are only the instruments for dissection,
 “ which I called for this evening in
 “ my way to the burial ground.” The
 loud laugh of the Marquis and his com-
 panions now re-echoed from every side,
 and the whole of this adventure being
 turned into a jest ; they rallied the Cheva-
 lier most unmercifully on the panic he
 had endured. Chagrined and confused at
 their ironical compliments, and congratu-
 lations on his bravery and fortitude,
 he

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he and his three friends were glad to jump into the hackney coach, take the places of the dead bodies, and make the best of their way to the masquerade, leaving the other gentlemen very merry at his expence.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CXLVII.

THEY continued laughing till the coach was quite out of sight; the Marquis then got into his own carriage, and the coachman had already driven down two or three streets before he recollected he had not received his master's orders where to go; he stopped to enquire, and it came into the head of Monsieur D'Illois that he would pay a visit to Adelaide, the little dancer; but as it has before been observed, he had promised to use precaution in his visits to that fair one. He told the coachman
to

to stop some distance from the house of his divinity, where he got out, sent home his carriage, and arrived happily at the garden gate, which he fortunately found open, from thence he softly ascended the staircase, and knocked very gently at the door of Adelaide's apartment. He waited some minutes, at last the chamber maid, peeping thro' the key hole, whispered an enquiry of "who was there?" and what he wanted?" when having received her answer, she again left him, under no small degree of impatience, and not a little surprised that he was suffered to wait an instant after telling his name, which gave him some reason to suspect the place was filled by another; at last he gained entrance, but his suspicions made him survey the room with a very inquisitive eye. Mademoiselle Adelaide was in bed, and complained

plained loudly of the want of consideration, and incivility shewn to her by coming to disturb her repose at so late an hour; “ declared that the delicacy
 “ of her constitution was such, that she
 “ could not submit to be treated with
 “ so little ceremony, and that she should
 “ be dying in the morning with the
 “ head-ach, from the terror she had
 “ been in at hearing some one knock
 “ at her door so late in the night.”

Whilst she spoke the Marquis surveyed her very attentively, and thought he saw fear and inquietude in her manner, which confirmed his ideas, and without making her any reply he began to search about the room with very little ceremony, in spite of all the nymph could say to prevent it. “ Indeed, Mar-
 “ quis (said she) you are extremely ridiculous. I do not understand this
 “ treat-

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“ treatment, I assure you; pray leave
 “ me— for I am really ill.” The exa-
 mination of every place he had hither-
 to-surveyed had been so unsatisfactory
 that he began to believe his jealousy was
 groundless, when he heard some one
 cough in a closet just by the bed side,
 which had escaped his vigilance.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CXLVIII.

“ **W**HAT noise is that? (cried
 “ the Marquis hastily).” “ I
 “ never suspected you of jealousy before,
 “ (said Adelaide, forcing a laugh) but
 “ I cannot say the humour becomes you
 “ in the least.” “ Some person coughed
 “ in that closet, (returned the Marquis)
 “ and by all that is sacred I will see who
 “ it is; besides, it will be but charity to
 “ let them out, lest they should en-
 “ crease their cold.” “ Mere fancy,
 “ (said the lady) that door has not been
 “ opened for years; at least, never since I
 “ have been in the house.” “ No—you
 Vol. II. C “ shall

" shall see then what that closet con-
 " tains (said the lover)." There is
 " not a key to the lock, nor, I dare
 " say, one here that will fit it, (cri-
 " ed Adelaide) and any woman in the
 " world, but me, would never see
 " you more after such behaviour; but I
 " love you too well not to think your
 " jealousy more flattering than your in-
 " difference could be: in short, you
 " make a fool of me; but come, I will
 " charm away your doubts with three
 " magic kisses, and then let you go
 " quietly home to-night, provided you
 " will promise upon your honour to re-
 " turn to me early in the morning."

Without deigning to make any reply,
 the Marquis advanced towards the closet,
 and shook the door violently, but found
 it was bolted on the inside, he then gave
 a kick, which cracked a pannel, and

was

was preparing to repeat the blow, when it was thrown open with violence, and a man came out in his *robe de chambre* and night cap, with his sword drawn, who was immediately known by the Marquis to be Lord Warton.

F O L L Y CXLIX.

“ **H**OLD! Sir, (said my lord) I will
 “ explain this matter, and fully
 “ gratify your curiosity: I have kept this
 “ young lady for some months at a very
 “ great expence, and received frequent
 “ assurances that I was the only man so
 “ favoured, I therefore reasonably sup-
 “ posed my guineas had purchased her
 “ fidelity; as this apartment therefore is
 “ mine, and as I pay rather an extrava-
 “ gant price for it, I think I ought at
 “ least to have the privilege of sleeping
 “ here in quiet, when I chuse to come;
 “ you, I guess by what has passed, are
 “ exactly in the same predicament; but
 “ as I was in possession to-night before
 “ you came, I expect you to leave it
 “ quietly to me, or the sword must de-
 “ cide which of us two shall be masters
 “ of it.”

F O L L Y

F O L L Y CL.

MONS. D'Illois had likewise drawn his sword the moment the door flew open with such impetuosity, and being furiously angry that his rival should dare to suppose he would consent to retire, and leave him in possession of his mistress, he instantly put himself in a posture of defence, and called loudly to him to "come on;" several passes were exchanged on each side, when in the height of their combat there entered a young man as drunk as possible, whose white clothes covered with powder, a comb stuck in his hair, and a little shabby hat with a silver edging over his left ear,

were the professional marks of his being a barber, or an hair-dresser: his coat and waistcoat were unbuttoned from top to bottom, and, without being sufficiently in his senses to observe what passed in the room, he staggered towards the bed, (though hardly able to stand on his feet,) and addressed the frightened Adelaide in these words, in a tone of the greatest familiarity: “ I am come, “ child, (said he) to sleep with you to- “ night, though you did not expect me “ ’till to-morrow ; but the surprize of “ seeing a young fellow one loves is al- “ ways agreeable ; is it not, my little “ Adelaide ? I have, you must know, “ been at a tavern, and the wine was “ so plaguy good, that I have done “ nothing but swallow bumpers to your “ health as fast as I could : my com- “ panions are such rascals, they are all “ sneaked

"sneaked home to bed, and I thought I
 "was going home too, but I don't
 "know how it was, I lost my way,
 "and coming by your back gate, found
 "it open, so thought I might as well
 "sleep here with you—my dear, little,
 "pretty Adelaide."

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 "pretty Adelaide."

F O L L Y CLI.

ON first sight of the hair-dresser, the two gentlemen suspended their combat; but at the conclusion of his speech, they looked on each other in silent astonishment, and then burst into a violent fit of laughter, which drew the attention of the hair-dresser, who turning suddenly round, and seeing two persons with their swords drawn, concluded he was going to be murdered for his intrusion; throwing himself therefore on his knees, he cried for mercy in a most lamentable tone: "Dear gentlemen, (said he) for heaven's sake have compassion on a miserable dog of a friseur, and do
 " not

“ not envy the good terms on which I
 “ am with Adelaide, as, indeed, I pay
 “ her as far as lays in my power, for
 “ she has had the three most beautiful
 “ heads of hair in my shop, and I have
 “ drest her a whole quarter for nothing.”

He would have continued, but their mirth, which encreased at the conclusion of this speech, prevented their hearing him; and the Marquis D’Illois and Lord Warnton retired together, leaving the little dancer to their illustrious rival.

F O L L Y CLII.

IN a variety of pleasures, they soon lost every remembrance of a woman, whose infidelities were so apparent; and they regretted not the presents they had bestowed on one so very worthless, as they agreed, they had purchased experience, and that they were very fortunate to discover her perfidy before she had plundered them of more. From this time Lord Warton and the Marquis became inseparable friends: the young Englishman was twenty-two years old, tall, well proportioned, with an air of dignity in his manner which made him an interesting figure, but his complexion was so extremely fair, his eye so blue, and his features so delicate, that had not his countenance

countenance been overspread with a kind of manly ruddiness, he might have passed for a woman; his hair, of which he had a profusion, appeared to be fair, but many affirmed it to be red when divested of Marechale powder. The elegance of his dress was a proof that he studied fashion with the nicest exactness; and it was his particular pleasure to excel in them to the most eminent degree; as for wit, he had not by nature the smallest pretensions to any thing that wore the resemblance of it, yet, being a man of quality, his miserable puns were laughed at, his *bon-mots* approved, and his stories repeated by his acquaintance; so that upon the whole, he formed an opinion of himself, as a very lively, clever, sensible, entertaining fellow. One day as he and the Marquis were lolling in their arm chairs, so fatigued with a constant round

60 FASHIONABLE FOLLIES.

of dissipation, that their very existence was a burthen to them, Lord Warton undertook to amuse his friend by the recital of his travels, " Which (added he) though they have been very expensive, yet have amply repaid me by the information and knowledge of mankind which I have acquired, and, indeed, more real experience and observation than most young men of my age.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CLIII.

“**I** Shall not (said Lord Warton) trouble you with repeating my pedigrees, or the history of the ancestors from whom I am descended; the many honourable posts they have enjoyed will prove their nobility, and I cannot say I have that profound respect for their memory as to suppose a circumstantial relation of either their actions or pursuits would afford you any entertainment, but shall only confine myself to what relates to him who has the honour to call himself your friend, and only premise, that being heir to a good estate, my accomplishments and perfections were the object of admiration in my own family, at least; and before I was twenty, was universally allowed by all the women to be irresistible,
and

and was declared by my relations to be a prodigy of wit and understanding, though to say the truth, very little pains had been taken in my education, for it was agreed by both masters and preceptor that "too much study fatigued the mind, and weakened the memory." I had learnt a few words in most of the European languages, and even could express myself tolerably in some of them, and had made the greatest progress in French, but my knowledge in any was merely superficial, and I frequently found myself dreadfully at a loss when I most wished to shine in company; indeed, to speak truly, the only real qualifications I could then boast, were, to ride gracefully and well, to make a bet with judgment, and to be so nicely exact in the care and management of my stable, that my race horses were celebrated

celebrated through the three kingdoms both for strength and swiftness. My father anxious to see me a complete fine gentleman, determined I should go abroad, that I might hereafter, as he thought, be a pattern and example to the rest of the young nobility—his partiality combining thus the love of his child with zeal for the future welfare of his country and its improvement: when this project was communicated to me I received it with rapture, and was impatient to set out on the tour of Europe as soon as possible.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CLIV.

“**M**Y equipage was ready in eight days, for as I was to travel incognito, it was my intention to be frugal on the road, and less limited in my expences when I staid for any time in any particular place. I took with me only a valet and a footman, for my father thought me old enough to be master of my actions, and did not conceive it to be at all necessary to incumber me with that horrid animal called a tutor, as he had ever looked upon them as mere pedants, whose continual remonstrances weary, without instructing, their pupils.

FOLL Y

F O L L Y CLV.

“**I** Resolved to begin my travels by the way of Holland, therefore embarked in the packet with my slender retinue, and a fair wind soon blew us over to the first port in the Low Countries; and as I knew it must be impossible that any provincial town could afford any thing worthy of notice, I continued my way without stopping till I came to Amsterdam: the appearance of this city is worthy the capital of a rich republic; but I was much less struck with the edifices than with the number and diversity of the inhabitants, as there is here, as I may say,

a sample

a sample of the people of the different nations of the universe; and as it is an undoubted truth, that a contemplative mind may make himself acquainted with the national disposition of a whole kingdom, without ever associating with the inhabitants, so I formed a perfect and complete idea of the manners and customs of the Hollanders, from the observations made from my inn window, as from thence it was easy to observe that their dress was of the coarsest cheapest kind, without either gold or silver lace, and that their chief amusement was to walk with a pipe in their mouth, which national particularities convinced me that the Dutch are miserable, avaricious, slovenly, and idle.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CLVI.

“**T**HUS fully acquainted with the national character of the men, I then wished to know something of the general disposition of the women : I happened to mention my wishes on this subject to one of the smoaking fraternity, who came to drink beer and talk politics at the inn ; he seemed sensible of the condescension I shewed in entering into conversation with him, and quitting his pipe in return for my politeness, requested I would accompany him home for that evening, where I should see something worthy my curiosity : though I could not form any very
 pleasing

pleasing ideas of the entertainment I should meet with at the house of a man whom I had always seen enveloped in a cloud of tobacco, yet a weariness of myself, and a wish for something to do, induced me to go with him. We set out and walked thither; but how great was my surprise to see him enter the gates of a magnificent palace, the outside of whose walls were painted in different colours, and within lined with beautiful China tiles, according to the custom of the Dutch; this he told me was his habitation: we traversed a large court yard full of domesticks, and went up a grand marble staircase, which led to apartments most superbly furnished, and which contained luxuries from every quarter of the globe; the exact neatness with which these rooms were arranged and kept in order, encreased the pleasure they gave to

to the beholder; the floors were bright as the looking-glasses, and every piece of wood shone like silver. My friend, the smoaker perceived my astonishment: “ Young stranger, (said he) the same “ neatness, at which you seem so much “ to wonder, is universal through Hol- “ land, for which reason it is generally “ said, we pass half our lives in the care “ of our furniture.” I was going to answer, when he threw open the doors of a cabinet full of natural curiosities, worthy of a sovereign prince, and which to a lover of natural history, would have afforded hours of entertainment; but as I have neither taste or judgment in that way, I candidly own to you that I was tired to death, so very long did he keep me expatiating on the different rarities it contained: we quitted it at last, and he then led me towards an apartment I had

70 FASHIONABLE FOLLIES.

not yet seen. " This: (said he) is where I
" receive my company, (I was going in)
" but you must (continued he) pull off
" your shoes before you enter it; princes
" who do me the honour of a visit, are
" not exempt from this custom, and I
" always submit to it as shoes leave
" marks on the floor." This custom
appeared to me so very ridiculous that I
could scarce keep my countenance; how-
ever, both the Dutchman and myself
having pulled off our shoes, we entered
bare-footed into the rooms.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CLVII.

"I Did not repent my complaisance, nor bestow much attention on the decorations of the apartment, though it exceeded for elegance and beauty all I had yet seen; but I had eyes only to gaze on a young person, who more nearly resembled a goddess than any mortal I had ever seen before: this object of my admiration was sitting near the window and was employed in making lace, which shewed the smallness and delicacy of her hands, and the roundness and whiteness of her arms to the greatest advantage: when she rose to receive us, I was charmed with the elegance of her form; but when she advanced to meet us and threw herself into the embrace of the fat Dutchman, calling him
her

her dear papa, I envied him the caresses she bestowed on him, though her father. My new acquaintance presented me to her, if not in a polite, at least in a friendly manner, and told her, "I was
 " a young Englishman, with whom he
 " had lately made an acquaintance; I
 " told him (added he) that I should be
 " glad to see him during his stay in
 " Holland, and doubt not but you will
 " be as much entertained with his conversation as I am." I made not any difficulty of assuring the honest Batavian that "I would accept this permission, and wait on him often;" but when I endeavoured to address the young lady, I was at a loss for words to express myself, and conscious of the very ridiculous figure I made, was still more confounded; and though I could have wished to pay a long visit, was glad
 to

to make an escape to my inn, after a very short one; and I then learnt from my landlord, that my new acquaintance was one of the richest traders in the United Provinces, and likewise one of States General. "His High Mightiness, (he said) had been a widower some years, and had one only daughter whom he idolized." "What a detestable country is this, (returned I) where there is no distinction of dress to render rank conspicuous, but persons of real consequence are clothed like the vulgar? Long live, (say I) those brilliant nations of the polished world, where men are so fond of appearing what they are not; that a laced coat is often the whole estate both real and personal of those who wear it.

F O L L Y CLVIII.

“**L**OVE now detained me at Amsterdam much longer than I at first intended staying in that city; I soon gained courage and paid frequent visits to my charmer; but as my designs were not what would strictly bear the scrutinizing eye of a parent, I always took care to pay my devoirs at the hour I knew her father to be absent; and indeed, generally whilst the good man was smoaking his pipe quietly in the inn, I used to slip out of the back door to his house, and never found any other difficulty to gain his daughter's apartment except from the neatness of the house-maid, who always took care to stop me to pull off my shoes. In my first *tête à tête* with the beautiful Hollander, I received from her all the encouragement a lover could expect, and
from

from which I had a right to form the most flattering hopes : she heard me with smiles of approbation, and after a few meetings, when I offered to kiss her hand on retiring, she offered me her cheek ; till at last, we were on such familiar terms, that she made no other resistance to my innocent endearments than a modest silence ; I therefore grew bold, and concluded nothing I could wish for would be denied me, and resolved at my next visit to make further attempts on a virtue, which I supposed so ready to yield ; the beautiful girl perceived my design, and disengaging herself from my arms, “ Are you (said she) ignorant, that the innocent favours I have hitherto permitted you, are those which the custom of this country authorize a woman to grant to the man she approves ; but be as-

“sured nothing more is allowed to the
 “most favoured lover before marriage;
 “these are all that will be granted by me
 “until my father’s approbation gives a
 “sanction to my fondness; and, of his
 “partiality towards you, there is no
 “reason to doubt.” This speech which
 conveyed pretty clearly an hint as well
 as a reproof, was scarce attended to by me,
 as it appeared much too absurd to sup-
 pose that one so ready to grant so much,
 should in truth be very averse to grant
 more: these denials therefore appeared
 no more than form; in consequence of
 this idea I ventured to proceed to such
 liberties that the fair one became very
 seriously offended; her eyes lost all that
 sweet softness I had so much admired,
 and sparkled with rage and indignation.
 She repulsed me with the most unaffected
 disdain; and calling loudly for help, the
 servants

the servants came in crowds to her assistance. "Take that wretch (said she) and turn him into the street, it is no more than his deserts, who would encroach on the favours he has received, and seduce the daughter of a man who has entertained him with the utmost hospitality." The stupid rascals obeyed her without the least repugnance, and as I was unarmed, had the insolence to strike me as they pushed me out of door, and I returned to my inn enraged at the treatment I had met with, and cursing very sincerely the want of politeness and ill-breeding of the Dutch women, who are, I believe, the only women on earth, who appear less virtuous than they really are.

F O L L Y CLIX.

“**A**MSTERDAM could not be very agreeable to me, after having received so signal an affront, and chose rather to leave it, than run the risque of the unpolite rebukes of his High Mightiness; and should have quitted Holland directly, had I not heard that the Hague was a very agreeable residence for strangers, and in every respect worthy of my attention. I therefore determined to go back and make some stay at that rendezvous of the States General, ministers, and foreign Ambassadors to the United Provinces.

The

The air of the Hague seemed to purify me from the grosser particles of the smoke I had contracted in Amsterdam; and I no longer met so continually those little round, oily, fat people, with faces of stupid serenity. The number of foreigners that resort to the Hague, seem in some degree to have polished the rust of the Dutch, and harmonized them in such a manner, that I might perhaps have returned from thence with a tolerable good opinion of them, had it not been for a very disagreeable adventure which befel me. Ever anxious to gain an early knowledge of the manners and customs of the inhabitants of the principal towns, I went on the very first evening of my arrival, to the play at the French Theatre, and was astonished to find a troop of comedi-

ans, whose language is scarce understood, should draw together a much greater number of people than the actors of their own country : from this preference of the French players, I drew this inference, that the Dutch however saturnine by nature, yet have their whims and caprices ; and that there are not any people so absolutely unpolished as not to be in some degree governed by fashion. When I returned to my inn, I ordered supper in my chamber, and was asked by my landlord, if I did not prefer supping in company ; I readily consented, and he then introduced me into a large hall, where was a table with above thirty covers. I found myself not a little embarrassed on being introduced to such a number of strangers. I placed myself by the side of a young Dutchman who had sat near me at the play,
and

and we soon entered on the talents of the men, and intrigues of the women at the theatre. The ladies, I understood, were mostly maintained in a very expensive stile by the rich merchants : thus I found the Seven United Provinces taking large steps towards attaining the agreeable failings of politer nations. This kind of chat enabled me to bear with patience the amazing length of time we sat at table ; at last the company rose, having finished a pipe or two apiece, and as my new acquaintance and I retired to our chambers which were contiguous to each other, my companion observed, that I seemed melancholy ; but that if I wished for amusement, and travelled for information, he would the next day introduce me to a place, where I should see assembled most of

the principal persons of the Hague, and likewise would find it to be one of the places most worthy observation of any in the Republic. I accepted this offer with pleasure, and looked forward with impatience to the hour when the young Dutchman was to fulfil his promise.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CLX.

“ I Rose early the next morning and dressed myself with the utmost expedition, and made as much noise in my apartment as possible, in order to give my next door neighbour an hint that I was awake; but vain were all my indications that I was stirring, he did not rise till past ten: surpris'd to see me ready so early, he laugh'd at my impetuosity, and inform'd me that the hour of meeting was not till evening. I was disappointed at this intelligence; my curiosity was much awakened and my impatience very great till the appointed time at last arriv'd, and I set out with him, fully convinc'd that I was to be introduced to some persons of fashion, to whose assembly all persons of any consequence resorted: nor had I any reason to change my opi-

nion on our entrance into a large hall, ornamented with pictures and glassess, and lighted by a great number of wax candles in glass lustres; here an infinite number of persons (not indeed very well dressed) were sitting round several small tables, smoaking and drinking of tea: my friend informed me, we ought to do as others did; we therefore sat down, and a table was brought to us with a bottle of foreign wine, biscuits and four glassess; I waited in silent attention what was to follow; but we had hardly filled a glass before there came in two young girls, handsome and elegantly dressed, who sat down by us without the least ceremony; I supposed them daughters to the nobleman at whose house we were, and overwhelmed them with civilities: these ladies drank very chearfully the bumpers with which I
had

had the attention to supply them, and they frequently smiled on each other at the air of respect and distance with which I treated them: in a short time, one of the two who had least attracted my notice, took the Dutchman by the hand and led him out of the room, and I was left with her whom I certainly should have preferred to her companion, had I presumed I was at liberty to make choice of either. I remained silent for some time after they were gone, which being a mystery the fair could not, I suppose, comprehend, she rose, saying, "Since they have thought proper to leave us, let us retire to another apartment and we will endeavour to amuse ourselves without them." I was rather surprised at this proposal to a stranger; but as I had found the beauty at Amsterdam

Amsterdam had peculiar notions of the toleration of innocent freedoms, I knew not but they might likewise extend as far as the Hague, and that my person and manner having made an impression in my favour, she was giving way to the impulse of an unsuspicious heart, therefore rose and followed her with transport, congratulating myself on my good fortune which had so early repaired the loss of the mistress I had left behind me.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y CLXL

“**T**HIS charm r conducted me through several winding passages to a small dark chamber, enlightned only by a lamp, and the furniture it contained was a miserable ragged couch, three old chairs and a broken table; this dreadful appearance of poverty surpris'd me exceedingly; yet I reconcil'd it to myself by the supposition that her intentions were more in my favour than I had at first suspected, and that she had brought me into the apartment of one of the inferior servants to prevent discovery: as soon as we enter'd, she led me towards the antiquated couch, and when we both sat down on the side of it, I expected it to sink beneath our weight; she then turned towards me and attempted to speak, but sigh'd deeply; tears
fell

fell from her eyes (at least I suppose so, as she covered her face with her handkerchief) and sobbed aloud, which astonished me so much, that I had scarce power to ask her what was the matter.

“ Must I then (said she) no longer live

“ ten to the voice of virtue? What,

“ alas! will it not cost me to forget my

“ principles? but were it not for the

“ misfortunes I now labour under, I

“ never would condescend to yield to

“ this indignity from any man.” This

discourse, and so plain an invitation

that she meant the kindest compliance,

increased my tenderness, and I im-

puted to modesty, the distress which

occasioned her tears; I therefore en-

deavoured to calm her sorrow, and kis-

sed her hands a thousand times like a

blockhead, vowing everlasting love.

FOLLY

“**M**Y careffes dried up her tears, and she began once more to smile upon me. “ You have conquered, (faid “ she) I consent to comply with your “ defires; but give me then immedi- “ ately a few florins to relieve my pre- “ sent diftrefs, and enable me to fup- “ port a wretched exiftence.” The aftonifhment I was under at this request (which at once opened my eyes in regard to the quality and profefion of my condefcending beauty) made me hesitate, and even deprived me of the power of putting my hand in my pocket for my purfe; she imputed my delay to a very different caufe, and even conftrued it into a refusal of her request; she rofe therefore with the look of a fury, and in a violent paffion, she clapped her hands loudly together feveral

veral times. "Come to my assistance
 " (cried she) he refuses to pay me:"
 at these words, the whole partition on
 one side of the room fell down with an
 horrible noise; and two sailor-looking
 fellows, with fierce looks and long
 knives in their hands, came from be-
 hind it and advanced towards me. "Rash
 " stranger (said one of them) are you
 " ignorant, that if you are caught in
 " Holland endeavouring to seduce our
 " females, it will cost you your life:
 " it is true, we suffer them to sell their
 " favours to our own countrymen; but
 " when we find strangers endeavouring
 " to pervert them, we kill them with-
 " out mercy; recommend yourself there-
 " fore to God, for nothing if you are,
 " as I suppose, a Frenchman, can save
 " your life." I protested with the most
 solemn asseverations that I was born in
 England;

England: "So much the better for you, (returned he) on that consideration we will spare your life, provided you give up your purse, if it is well filled." I did not give them the trouble of repeating their offer twice, but prepared to obey with the utmost docility, but turned pale as ashes, when on putting my hand into my pocket, I could neither find my watch, or gold snuff-box of great value, nor even the demanded purse, that was to have been my ransom.

F O L L Y CLXIII.

“**I** Always carried by way of precaution a pair of pocket pistols, and being now furious on finding what a loss I had sustained, I drew them out, and presenting them to the rascals, I threatened instantly to blow their brains out if they did not restore what they had taken ; I then heard another very loud noise, the floor shook violently under my feet, and a trap door opened, and the two sailors instantly disappeared ; I then turned towards the perfidious wretch who had inticed me to this chamber, not doubting but it was her who had robbed me, but she was likewise decamped, and in the place where stood the wretched couch, I now beheld a large corner cupboard. Terrified beyond measure at these prodigies, I hastened to leave a place where I expected every moment they would return and murder me ; but in endeavouring

ing to explore my way through the passages by which I came from the hall, I heard some persons laugh in an adjacent room, and as it was very natural to conclude, that I, after what had befallen me, was the subject of their mirth; I was so enraged, that regardless of the consequence, I gave the door a violent kick, it flew directly open, and I discovered my Dutch friends sitting with the two sailors dividing my spoils—mad at this discovery, of more vile treachery than I could even have suspected human nature to be guilty of, I precipitately fired both my pistols, two of the villains fell, bathed in blood, whilst the third, seized the watch, purse and snuff-box; and running full against a large picture which hung at the upper end of the room, it turned on a pivot, and let him through in an instant: I boldly followed and found myself in a long dark alley,

alley, but still discerned the robber running before me; sometimes I was near attaining him, but he having a much better knowledge of the way, the obscurity assisted him to elude my pursuit: I followed, however, till I heard a door clap-to behind me, and found myself alone in an unfrequented street, inhabited only by some of the lowest artizans; I asked some of them whose was the house I had left, and they told me it was called a Musico, being a kind of coffee-house, where were to be had all kinds of refreshments and the company of very beautiful women besides, but of the dangerous kind who enticed young men thither; and the house was full of traps and machines, which facilitated their escape from justice, after the robberies and sometimes murders which they had committed.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CLXIV.

“**I** Left Holland immediately, fully satisfied with this specimen of the customs and morals of people at the Hague, and with the utmost indignation and abhorrence of a country, whose magnificence consists only in the decoration of their houses, their dress in the most absurd meaness, and the commerce of the women, either the mere whipt syllabub of sentiment, or the gross libertinism of an infamous Musico. I took post directly for Germany, and resolved not to stop in any but those capital towns where an elector resided, and proposed to make all possible speed to Vienna; I deigned not to enter Bruxelles, as I had learnt the comedians

medians there were detestable, I therefore left it on my right, and as Cologne could not contain any thing worthy notice, as the elector was not there, went on without stopping, perfectly at my ease, being very comfortably a-bed in my chaise, drawn by four able post horses, and I ran an hundred leagues in this manner with the rapidity of lightning, and slept best part of the way: thus when I arrived at Treves, I scarce conceived I could have got half as far, yet, the roads were so good, and the inconveniences so few, that I made not any scruple to enter on my tablets, that Germany is a most delightful country. You may, perhaps, be surpris'd, Marquis, that I have not yet mentioned any persons either in Holland or Germany to whom I had letters of recommendation; many were offer'd me, indeed, before I left

England,

England, but they are a kind of tie upon a man to behave with civility and propriety, for which reason the devil of any letters did I desire to trouble myself with, but letters of change; or any introduction, except to the different bankers who were to supply me with cash; for as to my society, I wished to leave it entirely to chance; and as to amusements, a man with money in his pocket can always procure them.

F O L L Y CLXV.

“**I** Continued my way through the ancient city of Trèves, which abounds, (I have been informed) with monuments of antiquity, well worth the observation of the curious, but I really did not stop to see any of them; for as I was so soon to be at Rome, where there were little else to be seen, and as I am naturally much of a disposition to be easily gratified in such particulars, I drove post along the streets, yet could not help reflecting, as I passed, that the inhabitants must be either most exemplary saints or very great sinners, as I never saw so many churches in a town in my life. My postillions stopped, and almost insisted upon it that I should examine

mine

mine the cathedral, but I was not easily persuaded to give myself so much trouble, and was contented with surveying the mere outside of this gothic edifice, which is constructed of stones of so extraordinary a size, that all the good christians in that part of the world believe that it could not have been built by any other than the devil himself, which must, doubtless, have been at that remarkable period of his life when he was desirous to turn monk.

F O L L Y CLXVI.

“ **T**HOUGH I greatly admired the faith of the inhabitants of Trèves, yet I had not the least wish to remain in a city where the devil was the principal architect, but continued my way to the gates of Mayence, where I was so fortunate as to arrive just at the time the comedy was going to begin; it was a piece, (the original of which was French,) translated into German, and here I was absolutely enchanted with the actresses who played the principal character; her voice was clear and harmonious, with more variety of notes than a nightingale, and which penetrated my very soul. Heavens! how beautiful did she appear! I sat with my eyes fixed upon her, and viewed every gesture and motion with exquisite delight; I was placed at the back part of the theatre, so beheld my goddess

goddeſs in perſpective. After the performance was over, I went behind the ſcenes to pay my homage to this beauty, and found her ſurrounded by a croud of admirers, who were paying her the moſt flattering compliments on her perſon and talents ; it was with difficulty I could get near enough to expreſs my approbation, and make a ſpeech I had ſtudied for the purpoſe of introducing myſelf to her acquaintance ; but how was I ſurpriſed, on my nearer ſurvey, to find her ſo totally different from what I had conceived her to be ! Inſtead of the bewitching graces of youth, I beheld a little thin woman, abſolutely ugly, and at leaſt thirty years of age, though ten minutes before I would have betted an hundred guineas that ſhe was not more than eighteen ; I could even diſcern that her ſeeming fine proportion of ſhape was the effect of a

most disgusting leanness; her forehead was not higher than the breadth of my three fingers, and her hair would have met her eye brows had she not taken great care to pull it up by the roots, which left a blackness an inch broad all the way round her face; her eyes were as far in her head as those of a French barbet; nature had not bestowed on her more than half a nose in length; to make amends for which, she had a mouth fourtimes as wide as it ought to have been, ornamented with lips that would have been of a tolerable thickness for a blackamoor; however, though my illusion was dissipated, yet she was I (understood) quite the fashion, and I was exactly in the humour to do some foolish thing to be talked of, therefore, finding she was the ton, I determined, though I was cured of my passion, to pursue my design: I paid
my

my devoirs to her, and finding she understood some words of English, I addressed some gallantries to her in that language, which made her smile, and had even the assurance to follow her into her dressing room, and assist at her toilette. We were no sooner alone than I took out my purse, in which were fifty louis, and laying it on the table, told her, "My
 " landlord at my inn had given me a
 " chamber I did not like, and if she
 " would suffer me to share her's for that
 " night only, the purse and its contents
 " were at her service." She pocketed my money, and her scruples, (if she had any), and with an air of childish gaiety took hold of my arm, and permitted me to conduct her home; and not one of the numerous train that before surrounded her thought it worth while to dispute my pretensions.

F O L L Y CLXVII.

“**A**FTER having passed the night in the apartment of the actress, her extreme ugliness appeared the next morning in all its horrors, I therefore quitted her abruptly, threw myself into my chaise, and left Mayence without a wish to see any more of that city, its customs, manners, or inhabitants. My design was to go on directly to Vienna, and I had actually got a few leagues on my way thither when I altered my mind, and ordered my postillions to turn their horses heads towards Switzerland, for I should have been sorry to have been so near that famous country, and not have seen at least some part of it; yet, it was neither
the

the extraordinary plants or natural curiosities of the mountains, nor yet the singularities of the manners and simplicity of the inhabitants which awakened my curiosity, but merely (what do you think, D'Illois?) having lately read *La Nouvelle Heloise* of Rousseau, I was so enraptured with the praises he so liberally bestows on the superior excellence of their roots, creams, and fruits, that I determined to go and partake of them myself, and judge of their gardens and dairies from my own experience; and, like a man of taste, visit the Thirteen Cantons to eat milk and fruit in perfection.

F O L L Y CLXVIII.

“**I** Travelled along the banks of the Rhine, famous in history both on account of the many battles which have been there lost and won, and celebrated also for the beauty of the country through which it flows : I had before had a view of its majestic waves, having traversed it's borders in my way to Mayence. I soon attained Switzerland ; but a very terrible road, interspersed with the most frightful rocks imagination can conceive, made me repent having taken a journey into this savage country, where, amidst uncultivated mountains, a Colossal people still remain in ignorance of every luxury of polite life, strangers to the elegance

gance of theatrical diversions, the pleasures of playing for more than they can loose with good humour, and even the agreeable dissipation of ruining themselves for a pretty woman, what could a man of my fashion find to entertain or amuse him amidst a society of such unpolished barbarians?

F O L L Y CLXIX.

“**I** Had, however, the courage to pursue my resolution, and continue my way as far as Bâle, where I arrived in a very ill-humour with both postillions and roads; and to complete my chagrin, met with an adventure at an inn there, which occasioned me to curse the memory of the deceased Jean Jaques very sincerely: the appearance of Bâle was so very contemptible in itself, that I determined to quit it directly, and return back to the road to Vienna, without deigning to ask a single question respecting the inhabitants, or even getting out of my chaise, as there could not be any thing worthy the curiosity of a gentleman in a place so wholly

wholly insignificant; but on stopping to change horses, I ordered a couple of new laid eggs, which the landlord brought himself, and with the gravity of a judge expatiated on “the excellent pasture of
 “the Thirteen Cantons, the sweetness
 “of the milk which the cattle afforded,
 “the goodness of the poultry in this part
 “of the world, and above all, the delicious eggs which they produced,
 “allowed by all who ever tasted them to
 “be so remarkably fine, that he was,
 “(for his own par,) perfectly convinced
 “that people in the most distant nations of
 “the earth would never eat any other, if
 “these could be conveyed to them.”

Wearied with this nonsense, I impatiently demanded “what I was to pay for the
 “two I had eaten?” “Cheap enough
 “in all conscience, (returned he) only a
 “crown of six livres.” Astonished at
 the

the enormity of this demand, I loudly remonstrated with him for his extravagant imposition; instead of abating his charge, he replied with the same gravity, and with features perfectly unmoved by all the injurious epithets I so loudly bestowed on him, "That since I did not know when I was well treated, he would not have less than twelve francs for them." I now became so exceedingly angry that I perfectly raved with passion, but that, so far from having the least effect, induced him to insist on a louis d'or for his two eggs.—"I see plainly, my friend, (said I) that you are in jest, but as I am a person of consequence I shall not submit to be trifled with, neither am I at present in such good humour as to mistake absurdity for wit." "Sir, (answered the provoking rascal) I speak seriously; the

“ the eggs are eaten, and I will have no
 “ less than a couple of louis for them.”
 I then lost all patience, and began to call
 him thief and scoundrel with great vociferation ; he, on his side, continued to
 double his demands, till he brought them
 to the immense sum of seventeen louis. I
 was once more going to reply to this diabolical innkeeper, when my servant hastily
 entering the room to learn the cause of
 this disturbance, clapped his hand upon
 my mouth, “ What are you doing, (said
 “ he) my lord ? if you remonstrate thus
 “ much longer, you will be ruined.”

F O L L Y CLXX.

“**I** Paid no other attention to this advice, than being excessively offended at the insolence, as I thought it, of the person who gave it me, but, who it seems understood the customs of Switzerland much better than his master, and I resolved instantly to go to a magistrate, and lay a formal complaint before him of the innkeeper’s behaviour, fully convinced he would be very severely punished for the imposition he attempted to make on a stranger; indeed, I should have contented myself with laughing at his demand, have thrown him the reasonable price for so slight a repast, and as I had my pistols in the chaise, could easily have obliged

obliged my postillions to drive on, but I had unfortunately been prevailed on to alight, and from the instant this dispute arose, three stable boys stood with spits and pitch forks to prevent my entrance into my carriage till the matter was settled to their master's satisfaction. Enraged still more by this usage, I insisted on going to the house of a magistrate immediately, to which my landlord had the assurance to follow me with all possible effrontery, and seemingly not in the least ashamed of his behaviour.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CLXXI.

“THE magistrate received us in
 an hall on the ground floor,
 dark in itself, and very dirty in appear-
 ance, and his own dress bespoke him just
 returned from the laborious culture of his
 farm: I briefly informed him the cause of
 my complaint.—“ What have you (said
 “ he, to my landlord) to offer in defence
 “ of your conduct to this stranger?”
 “ I do not aim at making the least ex-
 “ cuse, (returned he) as I cannot con-
 “ ceive he has been ill-treated; I only
 “ demand of him twenty louis, as the
 “ price of my eggs which he has eaten.”
 “ Well, (said this upright judge) are
 “ you content with that sum? if so, I
 “ condemn this gentleman either to pay
 “ it you now, or remain in prison till he
 “ has

“ has satisfied you.” “ I am sorry (continued he, addressing himself to me) to be obliged to pronounce this sentence against you, but it is your own fault; you should have made an agreement with this man for the value of his eggs before you had eaten them; for it being wisely ordained by the laws of this venerable Republic of the Thirteen Cantons, that each citizen shall be absolute master of himself, and all which he possesses; he has, therefore, an undoubted right to set a value on his own property, according to his own estimation of its worth; and as the Swiss in general pique themselves on their probity and honesty, which is part of their national character, it is doing them so manifest an injury to suspect them of imposition, that, far from suffering such an

“ imputation

“ imputation to lessen their demand,
 “ they ever in revenge for the insult,
 “ augment the price in proportion to
 “ the haughtiness of the behaviour of
 “ the purchaser, by which means they
 “ are completely revenged on those who
 “ wrong them by such a suspicion, as
 “ they are obliged to take the goods at
 “ the rate they choose to dispose of
 “ them, however dear they may think
 “ it; give, therefore, this honest man
 “ the twenty louis, if you do not mean
 “ to pass your days in prison.” I found
 it utterly impossible at the conclusion of
 this fine speech, to hope for any redress,
 I therefore counted twenty louis on the
 table, (the dearest price ever paid for a
 couple of eggs), and most sincerely
 giving the justice, landlord, and every
 inhabitant of the Thirteen Cantons to
 the Devil, I got hastily into my chaise,
 and

and turned my horses heads back again towards Vienna. My curiosity sufficiently abated, by the specimen I had received of the peculiar excellence of their poultry, without the least desire to investigate the superiority of their fruits and creams, the supposed flavour of which first tempted me into such an abominable country, the bare recollection of which will at any time give me the vapours, much sooner than one of our November English fogs.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CLXXII.

“**T**HOSE rude rocks and high mountains which had appeared to me so very fatiguing to ascend in my way to Switzerland, seemed no longer a toil to climb, or dangerous to descend, when they were to facilitate my escape from that detestable country. I entered Munich in the middle of the night, and as the theatre had been shut some hours, I was consequently obliged to defer any observations on this place till the next day ; I slept in an exceeding good bed, did not wake till noon, and then took a walk into the town, returned to dinner at my inn, and afterwards waited with the utmost impatience for the hour that
the

the comedy was to begin. A company of French players were at that time at Munich; they played comic opera's four times in the week, and, on the other two nights, some old fashioned tragedies, which no one ever attended to but the common people. I was so fortunate as to have it opera night when I was there, which gave me a kind of foretaste of the elegant pleasures of Paris; the Company were so numerous I could scarce get a seat, though I went early; both the ladies and gentlemen were perfectly well dressed, and from this proof of their taste and affluence, I concluded that the inhabitants of Munich are persons of wit and understanding, and that great encouragement is given by them to the polite arts and sciences.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CLXXIII.

“**M**UNICH is well built, but so ill fortified that it must ever fall a sacrifice to every belligerent power that besieges it ; and there is not a coquette in all France that has been oftener taken, retaken, and abandoned by turns than this city : it is the capital of Bavaria, and the residence of an elector ; the electoral palace is of considerable extent ; and I was so struck with the beauty and regularity of its outward appearance, that, in spite of the hatred I have ever possessed of the dull method of going to view magnificent apartments and fine pictures, yet I fancied this edifice worth seeing, and determined
to

to give myself the trouble of walking over it—The elector who built it, was doubtless a man of intrigue, as there are a great number of galleries built in arches, which terminate in the houses of private persons, whom by this means he can visit incognito as often as he pleases; and it is not very improbable to suppose such secrecy was to be observed more on the account of female than male friends and favourites.

F O L L Y CLXXIV.

“**I**N passing through the apartments of this superb palace, I was accosted by a gentleman, from the magnificence of whose dress, and the respect paid him by the officers of the court, I judged was a man of the first distinction; after some conversation on different subjects, “ You “ are a stranger, I perceive, (said he); “ will you do me the favour to partake of a small entertainment in the “ German stile?” I hesitated not to accept so polite and friendly an offer, and followed my new acquaintance into a tavern, where I was infinitely surprised to find the collation I expected to partake of, limited to about thirty bottles

bottles of wine, which were set out ready for our reception. "Come, (cried my conductor when he saw them) this is a noble sight; now let us drink till we lose the power, but not the inclination to drink more." When he uttered these words, joy flashed from his eyes, and a face already fiery-red, and pimpled in the highest degree, became of the highest crimson; he then filled a bumper in a glass which held at least a pint, and putting it first to his lips, and then into my hand, he absolutely obliged me to swallow it at one draught; he then again filled it for himself and drank it in an instant. By his beginning in so furious a manner, I was induced to hope that the fumes of the wine would soon inebriate my companion, and enable me to leave him; but vain were my hopes: so far

from being intoxicated, he had scarcely began what he called drinking, before I had more than enough; and we drank each others health so often, having but one glass between us (which is one of the polite customs of a German tavern) that I entirely lost my senses and fell under the table; but how long I remained there, or what became of my companion, I know not; for one of my servants who had followed us, had me carried to the inn where I lodged; and on coming to my senses the next day, I found myself in bed dreadfully bruised, my head so heavy and stupid, that it was three days before I was able to go out; yet perfectly divested of every wish ever to partake of a German entertainment.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CLXXV.

“ **A**S soon as I was able to bear travelling, I pursued my way post] to Vienna; but when I arrived there, could hardly believe that I was in the capital of Germany; for were it not for the suburbs, it would not be more than a little paltry town; and even the palace of the Emperor is so mean and gothic in appearance, that it seems rather a clumsy proof of the antiquity of the house of Austria, than the residence of a great monarch. Vienna seemed to afford so little entertainment, that, had I not thought it absolutely right to have it to say on my return home, that I had resided there some time, I should

have quitted it directly, without the least regret; and I even put a very disagreeable restraint upon my inclination, by my strict adherence to the inviolable rule I made on my first setting out on my tour, to pass hastily through small towns and villages, and to lengthen my stay in all principal cities where I could meet with company, pleasure and dissipation. When I went to the banker on whom my bills of exchange were drawn, I found him a polite, well-bred man, and he earnestly requested me to frequent his house of an evening during my stay at Vienna, where, he assured me, I should meet the most agreeable and entertaining society that part of the world could afford: there needed but little entreaty to induce me to accept his offer, as I knew
him.

him to be a person of considerable consequence in his way, banker to the court, and visited (I was told) by persons of the first distinction, and one who enjoyed a large fortune in the most respectable manner. In the brilliant circle of this evening assembly, I soon distinguished a very pretty woman, called the Baronefs, who had been a widow near a twelvemonth; I paid my court to her with the most perfect assiduity and attention, and endeavoured by every method in my power to improve my acquaintance with her to the utmost advantage, always placing myself next her, applauding every thing she said, and making it a constant rule never to reply in contradiction however absurd her argument, or ridiculous the proposition; she observ-

ed the impression her charms had made, and did not seem displeased with her conquest. One evening she suffered me to conduct her home, and I availed myself of this opportunity to discover my sentiments, and plead my passion so successfully that I obtained permission to wait on her at her own house; here I was each day more favourably received, till at length she acknowledged her affection for me; yet often in the midst of the most animating conversation, she would interrupt the tenderest vows of love, to prove the undisputed nobility of her ancestors, and it was very easy to see that my rank in life was a strong argument for my favourable reception, and raised me higher in her esteem than I should ever had reason to hope had I been but a plebeian. One day the beautiful German

man

man received me with such bewitching sweetness and apparent sensibility, that I threw myself on my knees before her, and besought her ardently to reward my love: she smiled on me with tenderness, but obliging me to rise, she walked from me with great dignity, and rung the bell (as I thought, very *mal à propos*,) when the servant entered: "Bring hither immediately (said she) that large iron casket from the table in my closet, I want it directly; it contains (continued she, addressing herself to me) my Lord, all my titles, records and pedigree."

F O L L Y CLXXVI.

“ **I** Waited in silence. the result of this mysterious behaviour, which appeared to me to be perfectly incomprehensible. The precious casket soon made its appearance ; it was fastened by several padlocks : the Baroness made a sign for the servant to withdraw ; he was no sooner gone than she proceeded to open all the locks with a small key, curiously fastened to her girdle, and displayed a prodigious quantity of old parchment. “ Be-
 “ hold (said she) the records of my family, from the first foundation of the German Empire—give yourself the trouble
 “ to read my pedigree, and it will prove
 “ the truth of my assertion, whilst seventeen quarters in my arms at once prove
 “ both the antiquity and nobility of my
 “ ancestors : now, my lord, shew me
 “ your

“ your titles and archives of your house ;
 “ and if your birth is equal in every re-
 “ spect to my own, I am ready to give
 “ you every proof of my affection, but
 “ it can only be on that condition, since
 “ I should expire with confusion were I
 “ to discover that I had submitted to
 “ the frightful indignity of receiving
 “ to my arms a man of no rank, or
 “ even a peer newly created.”

F O L L Y CLXXVII.

“ **W**HILST the illustrious lady
 was thus declaiming with all
 the pride of birth, it was with great diffi-
 culty I could suppress my inclination to
 laugh; I humbly represented to her,
 “ that it was absolutely impossible I
 “ could produce to her my genealogy,
 “ as travellers did not in general in-
 “ cumber themselves with records and
 “ pedigrees, and that my love was much
 “ too impatient to wait for the accom-
 “ plishment of my wishes ’till they
 “ could be sent me from England;
 “ that what ladies, in general, expected
 “ from their lovers, were secrecy and
 “ fidelity, virtues by no means com-
 “ prised in the letters patent of nobi-
 “ lity; and that this extreme niceness
 “ on

“ on such a subject, was not shewn by
 “ the greatest ladies either of the French
 “ or English court, as it was the heart
 “ alone that was to be consulted in
 “ such an attachment.” Vain were my
 pleadings—she remained inexorable, and
 saw me act every extravagance of a
 fool and madman, with the utmost
 composure. Vexed to the soul at find-
 ing I had not any more influence
 over her, but that pride made her fear
 it was derogatory from the grandeur
 of her origin, to listen to the dictates
 of love, without the most convincing
 proof of my dignity,—I retired, ex-
 tremely enraged, and resolved, not only
 to abandon the proud Baroness, but fear-
 ing the other ladies of Germany might be
 equally absurd, and expect no man to
 make love to them without a certificate
 from the herald’s office, I left Vienna
 and hastened to climb the Alps.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CLXXVIII.

“**I** Descended into the Milaneze, fatigued to death with the slow pace the horses had been obliged to go in so mountainous a country; but the air of Italy seemed to give me new life, and I reflected with pleasure, that I should no longer associate with the phlegmatic, ceremonious Germans, but promised myself a fund of amusement from the lively petulance of the Italians. Arrived at Milan, I eagerly enquired what was most worthy my observation in that city? they immediately entered into a long detail of the beauty of a great number of superb edifices, and amongst the rest, a cathedral

thedral built, they told me, of marble of different colours, not yet finished, ornamented with statues which have immortalized the name of the first artists in Italy. As these were trifles I never attended to, and if they really are what it is desirable for a man to be acquainted with, he may read as well an account of them, after his return to England, much more accurate than he can give; and in much less time than he can see them. I therefore declined very peremptorily to bestow the hours I had to spare on either churches or paintings; but eagerly enquired the time the opera was to begin, and went that evening to the theatre, where was to be represented an opera, written, I heard, by one Metastasio, who it seems is one of their most famous poets: the music was likewise the composition of
one

one of their most celebrated composers. In consequence of this information, I thought myself very fortunate, for I had heard such praises of the performers of Italy, that I expected to be quite enchanted; but to my very great disappointment, so far from being entertained, I was quite tired before the second act was finished, and except a few airs, I thought it the most detestable performance I had ever seen, and am fully convinced that not any person possessed of the smallest degree of understanding, can ever find any entertainment in their dull recitavo and repetitions without end.; however, all the persons near whom I was placed, affected infinite pleasure, and were hoarse with calling out bravo! bravo! whilst I kept a profound and contemptuous silence, except now and then yawning most dreadfully

fully, in spite of every effort to prevent it, as it was with the greatest difficulty I kept from sleeping. When it was over (weary to death, and my ears aching with the fatigue of listening to the warbling quavers of a set of effeminate wretches, metamorphosed into kings, heroes and conquerors) I rose from my seat, and said aloud in English (which I did not suppose any one there understood) “What cursed music it is! “well worth the trouble, truly, to “come so far to hear such a jargon “of sounds!” when I had uttered these words, a man muffled in a long cloak, who was in the next box, looked at me in a very particular manner, and I learnt afterwards, that he perfectly understood the sense of my exclamation: this person followed me out, and walked behind me a few paces till we
came

came into an unfrequented street, when he suddenly drew a poignard and stabbed me in the back in two or three places, telling me at the same time, "he gave it me to cure the defect in my ears;" this new method of teaching music, was so dextrously applied, and by so masterly a hand, that I had not time to parry the blow, but fell senseless at his feet; when I came to myself, my groans drew the attention of some charitable persons who were passing; they took me up, carried me to the nearest inn, which proved to be that from which I came, and which I had preferred on account of its vicinity to the theatre; when I was able, I related to my host the accident which had befallen me; but when he heard the provocation I had given by my soliloquy, he assured me I had got

got off cheaply. "What! (said he) did
" not you know that the Italians are
" equally jealous of their music and
" their wives? with only this difference,
" that they stab you for not liking
" the one, or for being too fond of
" the other."

FOLLY

F O L L Y CLXXIX.

“**A**S I travelled both for amusement and instruction, you will please to observe, that I made frequent excursions from the direct road, and looked upon an hundred leagues more or less as a trifle: for instance, when I left Vienna, the direct road into Italy was to have gone from thence to Venice, instead of which I went to Milan; but, when my wounds were healed, I bid an eternal adieu to that city (without making my second appearance at the opera); and though my principal wish was to get to Rome, yet I could not prevail on myself to proceed thither, till I had seen Venice; and this famous republic is doubtless a singular and even wonderful object from
whatever

whatever point you view it as it; has all the appearance of a city risen from the bosom of the ocean, whilst the tops of palaces, and spires of churches, intermingled with sails and masts of ships, added to canals formed into streets, with a kind of quay on each side, make altogether a variety not to be equalled in any other part of the world, whilst the gondolas elegantly painted and gilt, ready to carry you wherever you please, add to the beauty of the prospect, and are carriages infinitely more commodious and easy than a *vis-à-vis*. When I arrived at Venice, the whole city wore the appearance of an universal masquerade, the streets, and all the small boats which covered the canals, were full of persons in masque, I enquired of my landlord with some degree of astonishment, the meaning of this
 general

general disguise. "You must know
 " (said he) that it is now the time of
 " the carnival, which lasts much longer
 " here than in other places; and we
 " celebrate it with the most extra-
 " vagant mirth; this delirium ex-
 " tends even to our senators, who are
 " supposed to be the gravest and wisest
 " heads in the Republic; but if you
 " wish for amusement, put on a masque
 " and look like the rest." I deter-
 mined to follow the advice of my host,
 and after taking some refreshment and
 being properly equipped with a baúto
 and masque I mixed with the joyous
 crowd.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CLXXX.

“SCARCE had I began my walk amidst the grotesque figures, which surrounded me, when I met with a lady whose fine shape attracted my notice; as I looked earnestly upon her, she stopped and surveyed me in her turn, with great attention; from this behaviour I had reason to think she was not displeased with my person, and resolved to follow her; when she found that I pursued, she looked back several times in a manner not very discouraging to a stranger, and which induced me to hope my adventure would prove agreeable; venturing therefore to approach the disguised nymph, “ permit
 “ me (said I) the honour of being your
 “ *cavillero*

“ *cavilliero servante* for this evening ?”

She made some little difficulty to accept the offer of my arm, but at length condescended to take it; and to add to my felicity, she soon gave me to understand she knew the meaning of a few English words, which enabled me the better to express my passion; her answers were short, but interrupted by frequent sighs more flattering to a lover than the most elegant discourse: enchanted with her sweetness and affability, I every moment kissed her hand, or rather glove, which she seemed to abandon without reluctance to my transports: we walked a great pace (for so delicate a lady) and though I used all the persuasion I was master of, to prevail on her to sit down, and take off her masque, she made not any other answer than that, “ it was not yet
“ time,

“ time, and if I really wished to know
“ who she was, I must have patience ;”
we went into the theatre, at the size
and height of which, I was most ex-
tremely surpris'd : the opera was a new
one ; but as every person who attended
the representation, was in masque, I can-
not say the audience very strictly ad-
hered to the exact rule of decency in
their deportment.

F O L L Y CLXXXI.

“ **W**E left the theatre before the end of the piece ; I continued close to my incognita, and each moment augmented my passion. We continued to pass through several streets and squares, till both being fatigued, she got into a gondola, into which she desired me to follow her ; after rowing some time the gondoliers stopped, and my fair conductress took me with her into a superb palace, where were a great number of tables, covered with heaps of gold and silver, and surrounded by a croud of adventurers. “ Doubtless, (said the “ masque) you must have heard of the “ high play of the Venetians during
 “ the

" the Carnival, this is one of the princi-
 " pal places consecrated to gaming, fre-
 " quented by all ranks of people ;
 " here the haughty noble condescends
 " to forget the dignity he is at other
 " times so tenacious of, and associates
 " with the meanest citizen ; the conse-
 " quence of which is, the money of
 " both mingles generally in one purse,
 " and most commonly, it is that of the
 " *illustrissimo* which is left empty."

G :

FOLLY

F O L L Y CLXXXII.

“ **A**S she ended these words, she approached one of the tables, drew out a handful of gold, set it on a single card, and lost it directly with the greatest ease and good humour ; I had a strong inclination to try my fortune likewise, but she would not permit it.

“ Come, (said she, laughing) we are
 “ in a dangerous place, let us go, lest my
 “ stay here should prove your ruin, for
 “ if you are once seduced to play, you
 “ are most probably undone.” We
 again embarked in our gondola, which
 in a short time stopped before the door of
 a tavern, of a very miserable appearance,
 into which the nymph (to my great sur-
 prise)

prise) entered, without the least hesitation; I had now certainly every reason to rely on the favourable intentions of the lady, and we had no sooner entered a room than I had the presumption to take off her masque, without any great degree of ceremony; but what words can express my astonishment, when I beheld a beard, which plainly indicated the disguised fair one to be one of my own sex?

F O L L Y CLXXXIII.

“ **M**Y confusion equalled my astonishment, which was encreased by the loud laughter of the person who had thus imposed on my credulity, and I felt my situation so truly ridiculous, that I was enraged to the highest degree.

“ Excuse my mirth (said my companion)

“ and do not be offended at an innocent

“ pleasantry ; I have disappointed many

“ others in the same manner—I am a

“ senator, and one of the noblest in Venice,

“ yet that does not prevent me at

“ this time of universal dissipation from

“ enjoying a frolick ; this of to-night

“ has afforded me great entertainment :

“ comfort yourself, therefore, for the

“ loss of your mistress, by having attained a friend who may be of service

“ to you during your stay here.”

FOLLY

F O L L Y CLXXXIV.

“ **I** Repaid the confidence of the old senator, by informing him in my turn of my name, quality, and country ; the pleasure he had appeared to receive from my conversation, seemed to be augmented by this intelligence. “ I am rejoiced (said he) that I was so fortunate as to meet with you ; I insist on your going home to supper with me this evening, and I will introduce you to my wife.” Whilst I returned him thanks for his politeness, and assured him that I should with pleasure accept his invitation, he pulled off his disguise, and I beheld a little, thin, grey-headed man, most extremely ugly, he then

G 4 dressed

ressed in a long purple robe, and we went into another gondola, infinitely more elegant than that which had brought us thither, and we soon after arrived at a palace, ornamented with large columns of marble; as soon as we entered, a great number of domestics met us with lights, and walked before us to the apartment of his lady, with whose beauty I became captivated at first sight: she was tall, her complexion exquisitely fair, her eyes, large, black, and full of fire, expressive both of dignity and sweetness, and her graceful air and majestic deportment would have done honour to royalty itself: the noble Venetian presented me to her in the most obliging manner, and expatiated on my family and merit as if he had known me from my infancy; and having finished the enumeration of my good qualities,

ties, requested she would give me her permission frequently to pay my respects to her during my residence at Venice, to which she readily assented : an elegant supper was soon after served up, with a profusion of excellent wine ; I was placed opposite to the fair Signora, and the glances I stole, and the contemplation of her charms, were the most luxurious part of the entertainment ; the story of our evening's adventure diverted her extremely, but suddenly assuming an air of the most serious gravity, “ It is not in the least astonishing (said she, with a profound sigh) “ that your lordship should be induced “ to believe you had met with a woman “ disposed to listen to your addresses, “ since we every day see the most shocking instances of wives who violate “ their marriage vow without the least “ scruple ;

“ scruple ; yet, I cannot cease from won-
 “ dering when I hear that there are coun-
 “ tries, where the breach of conjugal
 “ fidelity is looked upon as a mere *baga-*
 “ *telle* ; as to being false to a lover, that,
 “ indeed, I can readily excuse, but
 “ faithless to an husband ! heaven and
 “ earth ! I shudder at the very idea of
 “ such a complicated crime.” Whilst
 the beautiful creature exclaimed thus
 her abhorrence of inconstancy to the
 great comfort and satisfaction, I doubt
 not, of her husband, she ogled me, un-
 seen by him, in the most expressive
 manner ; I did not retire till very late,
 when the obliging senator ordered a ser-
 vant to attend me, and forced me to ac-
 cept his own gondola, in which I re-
 turned to my inn, and found my land-
 lord surprised at, and my servants under
 great anxiety on account of my long
 absence.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y CLXXXV.

“**W**ITH my mind wholly employed in retracing the charms of the beautiful Venetian, I passed a sleepless night, and rose very early in the morning, and then walked out, with an intention to amuse myself, in hopes to dissipate those ideas, which could only serve to render me miserable if I persisted to indulge them. I put on the same domino and masque that I had worn the evening before, when I had walked for some considerable time, I felt somebody tap me on the shoulder, and turning hastily I saw behind me a gondolier, elegantly neat in his dress, leaning on his oar, which was painted with a variety

of colours. I was going to enquire his business with me, but he prevented me, by saying, "By your graceful air, I am convinced I speak to Lord Warton." "I acknowledged he did so." "Here, then (said he) is a billet I have orders to deliver into your own hands—read it, and you will find, that the ladies of this country are not very cruel to strangers, and only require in return for their favours, secrecy and discretion." I hastily opened the note, and read these words:

"Your lordship's merit has gained a complete victory over an heart, not unworthy your attachment; I have a thousand things to communicate to you, which you will not be displeased to hear; come, then, in the cool of the evening into the same street where
" you

“ you now met with the gondelier, who
 “ shall conduct you to me.”

I promised faithfully to be at the place appointed, and to induce the gondelier to be punctual, I presented him with a few pieces of gold; my generosity redoubled his good humour, he quitted me singing, and left me transported with joy; as soon as I regained my inn, I ascended to my chamber, and entered in my common-place book, “ that
 “ Venice was undoubtedly the most
 “ agreeable city in the universe.”

FOLLY

F O L L Y CLXXXVI.

“**I**T was scarce dark, when I hastened to my assignation : the gondelier approached me immediately singing, and rowing along very gaily ; he beckoned me to come into his little bark, and when I was seated, rowed away hastily from the shore, continuing his song ; though the gondola went swiftly down the current, and the rower was both strong and robust, yet it was late at night when we stopped before a villa, on the banks of the gulf, which appeared (as well as I could judge of it by the faint light of the stars) to be large and elegant. My gondelier now set me on shore, and after informing me he would
return

return and fetch me at break of day, he directed me to go streight forward to a little door, where I found an old woman, who took me by the hand, and desired me to follow her; we traversed in utter darkness a court yard and several large apartments, she then opened a closet, put me into it, and retired, leaving me still in obscurity. After waiting some time, I became very impatient, at last my conductress returned, and took me into a chamber, most splendidly illuminated; the door of which being opened on a sudden, my eyes were dazzled with the number of lights, and richness of the furniture, but I no longer paid any attention to this magnificence, when I saw advance towards me a tall woman, whose easy shape and majestic air (though covered with a long veil) attracted all my admiration; this I doubted not was the beautiful creature
who

who had so ingenuously confessed herself my captive: the lady sat down on an elegant sofa of velvet, embroidered with gold, and having made a sign for me to sit by her, then threw back her veil, and discovered, to my inexpressible joy, the beautiful Signora, the virtuous wife of the old senator.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CLXXXVII.

“THE transport of my heart,
 which was visible in my countenance, seemed to give new animation to the eyes of the lovely Venetian; and whilst I passionately kissed her snowy hand, she addressed herself to me in the following manner: “The step I have
 “taken must sufficiently prove to you
 “the excess of my affection; yet, it
 “may be necessary, perhaps, to apologize to an Englishman for a deviation
 “from that delicacy, which is more
 “strictly observed by the ladies in his
 “own country. The women of our
 “nation go great lengths in love in a
 “short time, but the reason is obvious,
 “the

“ the continual restraint we are under,
 “ obliges us to renounce those little *dou-*
 “ *ceurs*, which may be properly called
 “ the prelude to affection, and give the
 “ women in happier climates, time to
 “ capitulate, and surrender in form;
 “ here it is impossible to improve friend-
 “ ship into love, we therefore begin
 “ with the latter, and this is all our
 “ wise husbands gain by their jealousy
 “ and precaution, and thus they abso-
 “ lutely advance the misfortune they en-
 “ deavour to prevent, and render us
 “ more condescending to the addressees
 “ of our lovers. The Italians look
 “ upon their wives as beings incapable
 “ of reason sufficient to conduct them-
 “ selves properly ; and their suspicions
 “ will carry them so far, that a man
 “ who behaves with any extraordinary
 “ politeness, even to a woman who is a
 “ stranger,

“ stranger, runs a certain risque of being
 “ assassinated, either by her husband or
 “ her lover; and, believe me, it was
 “ from the most unaccountable caprice
 “ of a moment that my husband brought
 “ you that evening into my apartment,
 “ as you are the first man he has suffered
 “ me to converse with since I became
 “ his wife, my own family not ex-
 “ cepted; is it not just then (continued
 “ she, with a bewitching smile) that
 “ we should dare sometimes to throw
 “ off this restraint thus imposed upon us,
 “ and follow the dictates of our own
 “ heart, which cannot but revolt at the
 “ idea of so servile a chain, and bids us
 “ revenge the contemptible opinion they
 “ entertain of our honour and virtue.”

FOLLY

F O L L Y CLXXXVIII.

“**T**HE blooming fair one hesitated as she pronounced these last words, and her down-cast eyes and blushes seemed to call upon me for vows of everlasting love. I threw myself at her feet, and began a declaration of my passion, with an eloquence dictated by truth and sincerity, when on a sudden I was interrupted by a noise, which filled us both with terror, and seemed to be the footsteps of many persons coming towards the room where we were ; and a few minutes after we heard the door in the anti-chamber burst open, as if by violence. “Heaven have mercy on us ! “(cried the terrified beauty) this is our “last moment, for I hear my husband’s “voice.” On hearing these words I should most certainly (however unpolite you may think it, dear Marquis) have endeavoured

endeavoured to leap out of the window, and not have made the least scruple to have left the lady to settle matters with her husband in the best manner she was able, but I had only time (trembling and agitated as I was) to draw out my pistols, before the room door flew open, and the old senator entered, with a poignard in his hand, followed by a crowd of domestics armed likewise. I saw my danger, and there not being any time to be lost, I attempted to fire, but unfortunately both my pistols flashed in the pan, which gave the servants an opportunity to disarm and bind me, whilst the furious old man, going to his wife, (who had sunk fainting on the sofa) he plunged his dagger several times into her bosom, who gave one loud scream, and dropped down instantaneously.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y CLXXXIX.

“ **T**HIS barbarity to a woman whom he loved, was sufficient to convince me that I had not any clemency to expect; and though I was excessively shocked at the death of the lady, I must own, I was under greater apprehensions for myself. “ Wretch, (said the Venetian, addressing himself to me) thou “ who hast dared to meditate my dishonour, in return for the confidence I “ placed in you, by introducing you to “ my wife, prepare for death, and “ know that I observed that very evening the glances which passed between “ you, and that perfidious creature who “ lies dead before you; they were such

“ as too plainly proved the intended
“ crime, but I then dissembled my rage,
“ and to secure my revenge, employed
“ spies, who have faithfully served me
“ to your destination.” Having ended
these words, he raised his poignard, and
was going to plunge it into my heart,
but recollecting himself, “ No, (said
“ he) I will not contaminate my hand,
“ by shedding the blood of one un-
“ worthy of so noble a death, rather, let
“ us (said he, turning to his valets) in-
“ vent some new kind of punishment to
“ gratify my revenge, therefore, each of
“ you, in turn, speak what you think
“ he merits.” Having received this
permission, the rascals willing to shew
their zeal for their master, proceeded to
give their separate opinions: one pro-
posed (with the utmost alacrity and un-
concern) that I should have my tongue
flit;

slit; another, to cut off my nose and ears; and a third, rather more merciful than the others, was for hanging me directly, (I leave you to guess, D'Illois, how agreeably I must be entertained all this time, whilst they were thus inventing new devices to torment me, forced to be a patient listener where I was so nearly concerned). At last, "Go," (said the senator) fetch hither a sack, "I have found out a method which will at once deprive him of life, and prevent our being troubled how to dispose of the body." The sack was brought, and they forced me into it, inflexible to my prayers, and deaf to my entreaties; they then tied it fast round the top, and the strongest of them, by the order of his master, took it on his shoulders, and carried me a considerable way, till at last I heard
 a voice,

a voice, which said, "This is the
 "deepest part of the gulf, throw
 "down your load here." At these
 words, I felt myself precipitated with
 violence into the sea, enveloped in the
 sack; soon after lost my senses, and
 most probably sunk down.

F O L L Y CXC.

“**T**HUS certainly would have ended both my life and my travels, and I should never have had the pleasure of relating, nor you the satisfaction of listening to my recital, had not a fisherman (luckily for me) chanced to have let down his nets there, and as fortunately come just at that time to take them up, when finding them heavy, he doubted not but he had taken a surprising quantity of fish, but was much disappointed on bringing it to shore, to find only a packet of coarse cloth; he determined, however, to take it home to his cabin, which was at some little distance, there to examine what it contained; but he

and

and his family were equally shocked and disappointed at finding only the body of a dead man, yet, being persons of humanity, they surveyed it accurately, in hopes there might remain some signs of life, and at last discovered near the heart a latent warmth, which made them hope they might be able to restore a fellow creature once more to the world: their charitable endeavours succeeded in bringing me back to my senses, and they took such care of me, that in some hours I was perfectly recovered, but not chusing to communicate to them the truth of my adventure, I only told them, that
 “ being on horseback alone, on my
 “ return to Venice, from a ride of a
 “ few miles, I had met with thieves,
 “ who, after robbing me of some valuable
 “ jewels, and being unable to find
 “ my purse, they tied me in a sack,

“and threw me into the sea.” When I left the cabin of the fisherman, I made him a present of my purse, and the honest man, when it was night, conducted me in his boat safe to my inn, where I immediately ordered post horses, and quitted Venice without seeing any one of its curiosities, except the old senator, from whose character I judged the national one of the Venetians, to be cruel, suspicious, and very inhospitable to strangers.

F O L L Y CXCI.

“**I** Could not believe myself to be in safety, 'till I had traversed the Po; therefore, leaving the city of Modena, and some others behind me, I went on directly to Florence. As soon as I came into the inn, a man was introduced to me, whose employment it was to shew strangers all that was most curious in that city, and accompany persons (for a trifling sum) to whatever is worthy their observation; these persons generally understand all the European languages, are to be met with all over Italy, and are very useful. The first thing I desired to see was, the famous antique statue of the celebrated *Venus de Medicis*,

of which I had heard so much ; it is in the palace of the Grand Duke, and is, it must be confessed, the representation of a very pretty woman, as finely shaped as our opera girls here, and her limbs so well proportioned, that one would rather suppose it the work of imagination in the sculptor, than a figure taken from real life, unless we are at liberty to believe, that the ladies are much degenerated since the days of Phidias and Praxiteles. Whilst my conductor was giving me the history of this statue, I observed a man gazing on it with the most enraptured countenance I ever beheld ; when I had shewn him to the Italian, “ that, (said he) you must understand, is one of the many lovers of
 “ our marble Venus : you laugh, I see,
 “ and do not believe me, but be assured,
 “ that many of our Florentines, whose
 hearts.

" hearts are extremely susceptible to
 " beauty from daily admiration, at last
 " become enamoured of this figure, to
 " their misfortune, since their sighs are
 " vain, as the chaste Lucretia herself,
 " could not treat them with more *cold-*
 " *ness*, or remain more rigorously vir-
 " tuous ; yet many of them will pass
 " whole days in gazing on her, without
 " either eating or drinking, others ad-
 " dress her in the most tender and ele-
 " gant verses, to all which she is equally
 " insensible ; and some consumed by so
 " hopeless a love, have died the victims
 " of their nonsensical passion."

F O L L Y CXCH.

“**T**HOUGH it undoubtedly appeared plainly to me that the honest Italian greatly exaggerated the folly of his countrymen, yet the very idea was laughable. I shall not pretend to give you a description of all the rarities of art and nature contained in the gallery of the Grand Duke ; suffice it to say, that they are such as have cost immense sums, which, in my opinion, might have been better bestowed : nor shall I endeavour to give you a detail of the statues I was obliged to admire, or the number of churches I was forced against my will to see ; the chapel of St. Laurent, alone, contains a treasure which
would

would be sufficient to enrich numberless individuals; it was built for a sepulchre for the great Dukes, and seems as if intended to convince us, that death itself cannot terminate the vanity of the great. It was insisted upon by my *Ciceroni* that I should enter the library, in which it is said there are a great number of valuable manuscripts; the only observation I shall make on this subject is a very short one, which is, "that if there are, they had

" much better be published to the world

" than let them remain there useless: indeed, a large library serves not any

" other purpose than to mortify the ignorant, by shewing them what they

" might have known; and great scholars

" the very little share of knowledge they

" have been able to acquire." As we were returning home, we were stopped by a very great crowd, who seemed to be

assembled to see some extraordinary fight ;
 before I had time to enquire the reason,
 we perceived a great number of coaches
 at a distance, drawn by horses, richly
 harnessed, and followed by several ser-
 vants on foot ; the carriages were full of
 ladies and gentlemen, elegantly dressed,
 and the smiles of mirth and good humour
 which enlivened their countenance, seem-
 ed to proclaim their satisfaction, and indi-
 cate that they were going to celebrate
 some festival. “ What (said I) is the
 “ meaning of this numerous procession
 “ thus adorned ? Is it the entry of an
 “ ambassador ? ” “ So far from it, (said
 “ the Florentine) it is a young woman
 “ going to take the veil.”

F O L L Y CXCH.

“ **T** HIS answer seemed to me a very unaccountable one; as I had ever looked upon a young woman thus situated, as a victim whom the cruelty or avarice of her parents had reduced to submit to a dreadful imprisonment for life, and it was absolutely impossible to reconcile an idea so very opposite, with the apparent mirth of the joyous troop before me. “ You are, I perceive, absolutely incredulous (said the *Ciceroni*) “ but I am determined that you shall be “ convinced of the manner in which “ our nuns make their profession. I am “ intimately acquainted with some of the “ young lady’s relations, and they will “ look on the company of a stranger on

" this occasion, as a particular favour ;
 " this is the last day of the cavalcade,
 " and they are going with the future
 " nun to shew her whatever is worth
 " seeing in this city before her retire-
 " ment ; we will, if you please, follow
 " them directly, and be witness to the
 " ceremony : if you are astonished to see
 " them so merry now, before the day is
 " over you will be infinitely more sur-
 " prised." We looked about, and fol-
 lowed the procession, and thus paraded
 several streets, lined with spectators, and
 stopped at the gate of a palace, where
 the whole company retired. As this was
 the habitation of the lady's father, my
 conductor presented me to the master of
 the house as his friend, and I was per-
 mitted the honour of saluting the future
 vestal, who wore a great number of very
 fine jewels, and was adorned with all the
 graces

graces art and nature could bestow, and dressed more like an elegant bride than a virgin consecrated to heaven. We had an excellent dinner, at which the beautiful nun drank very freely with the gentlemen who requested her to grant them that favour, and joined in several *chansons à boire* very devoutly. After this repast the coaches were again ordered, and I presumed that some very pious act of religion was to consecrate the remainder of the day, but on the contrary, the nun and the whole company were carried to the theatre, where it is most probable they only waited our arrival to begin, as they instantly drew up the curtain, and began a serious opera, but in the midst of the second act, our party again rose up, and went from thence to the comic opera, and from thence to a third, where they played an Italian farce; and the *bon*

mots

mots of harlequin, though not always consistent with the strictest delicacy, seemed to entertain the young lady exceedingly, as she laughed louder than any other person; here we staid till it was entirely finished, and then returned to the palace.

F O L L Y CXCIV.

“ **A** Splendid supper waited for us, after which we went into a large hall, illuminated with lustres, where the nun opened the ball, and danced very gracefully ; we continued dancing till break of day, when we conducted the young creature to her convent ; she went into it, and through the grate of the chapel, the curtain being thrown back, we soon after beheld her, divested of her fashionable *attire*, and covered from head to foot with the dismal dress of the order, and a veil thrown over her head : she pronounced her vows with a smile, embraced those ladies who assisted at the ceremony, and we retired home, having been much pleased, well entertained, and undoubtedly most extremely edified by so very religious a prelude to a monastic life.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y CXC.V.

“**M**Y extreme impatience to arrive at Rome, made me quit Tuscany soon after, and I entered Rome at the very gate through the which Charles the Fifth and so many other heroes had passed before me. When I got to the inn, I again chose a *Ciceroni* from among the officious gentlemen who presented themselves for that purpose. I had no sooner settled this important point, than my conductor desired leave to wait on me the following morning, that we might proceed to visit the most famous antiquities; I endeavoured in vain to persuade him, that moderns were to me infinitely more entertaining—he insisted upon it that it was a custom every one complied with, and I was obliged, much
against

against my inclination, to spend whole mornings in viewing statues, obelisks, and triumphal arches, without number; and the more they were broken the more he expatiated on their beauties, but my sentiments on these occasions did not perfectly coincide with his; and the ruins of those baths (which he appeared almost to reverence) gave me not any other idea, than, that the ancient Romans, were a very cleanly people: the demolished amphitheatre was a proof that they had a taste for public diversions, and their magnificent *mausoleums*, that in fondness for sepulchral pomp, they even exceeded the moderns. I contemplated all these with the eye of a philosopher, that is to say, with the most perfect indifference, which is the light one certainly ought to see every thing which bears not the least analogy to the customs

customs and manners of the present age; and I frequently asked my conductor, whether the amphitheatre of Vespasian, or the pyramids of Egypt (though those were rather foreign to the subject) could possibly instruct our artists to lodge us more commodiously, or more splendidly than we were at present? but he looked on me with so much contempt for these observations, that I determined for the future to conceal my thoughts; and, in order to attain the reputation of a *connoisseur*, become the faithful echo of all his expressions of admiration. He took me to all the principal palaces, many of which contain paintings and antiquities of more value than the structures themselves. I was absolutely wearied, fatigued, and tired to death with seeing all these things, and would gladly have paid double the sum

agreed

agreed on, to have been at rest, but must then have given up every hope of being looked upon as a man of taste and virtue, to obtain which, I daily suffered ten thousand inconveniences, one of which (and not the least) was the horrid custom of rising at day-break, which lengthened the morning to as many hours as compose the day of a man of fashion, either here or in England.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y CXCVI.

"A T length having performed all
 the duties of a modern traveller,
 I began to think of my departure, but
 my *Ciceroni* finding it would be great-
 ly against his interest, thought of a
 method to detain me. " My Lord, (said
 " he) you suppose that you have now
 " seen all that is worth your notice
 " in Rome; but can you possibly pre-
 " vail on yourself to quit this city un-
 " acquainted with the privileges and
 " duties of a *cicesbeo* or *cavaliero ser-*
 " *vente*? a lady of my acquaintance
 " has just lost one of hers, she is in-
 " consolable for his death, and none
 but

“ but a cavalier of merit and rank can
 “ form the least hope of replacing him
 “ in her esteem; will your lordship
 “ deign to accept the post, and per-
 “ mit me to introduce you to the lady?”
 I consented with pleasure, but as I had
 hitherto looked upon this custom as chi-
 merical, I desired him to give me a
 full explanation of the rights and at-
 tendance expected from me. “ You
 “ must know, my Lord, (said my in-
 “ structor) that the ladies of Italy are
 “ attended by two gentlemen, who are
 “ (or supposed to be) slaves to love;
 “ but whose passion is confined within
 “ the proper bounds of the most de-
 “ licate reserve, and require nothing
 “ more to complete their happiness than
 “ the sight of the beloved object; to
 “ converse with her, to receive now and
 “ then a smile, and sometimes the per-
 “ mission

“ mission to kiss her hand : this is the
 “ whole amount of what they have a
 “ right to expect ; but the services de-
 “ manded from them are of a very
 “ different nature ; the one presents his
 “ arm to *la Signora* when she goes
 “ abroad, calls up her servants in pub-
 “ lick, takes care of her cloak, and
 “ sometimes carries her lap dog ; the
 “ other passes the morning in her apart-
 “ ment, assists at her toilet, presides at
 “ her *conversationé*, and is at all times
 “ to entertain her with his wit when
 “ she is inclined to listen to it ; and
 “ this custom has been of so long a
 “ continuance that the jealous Italians
 “ are never alarmed on the account of
 “ the *cicesbeo*, but look upon them as
 “ the most vigilant guardians of the
 “ fidelity of their wives.” “ But is it
 “ true in fact (returned I) that your *cices-*
 “ *beo*

“ *beo*, is really the harmless innocent ani-
 “ mal you describe.” “ O that (answer-
 “ ed he smiling) is another affair ; it
 “ is quite sufficient that hitherto it has
 “ as yet never happened, that they have
 “ dared publicly to deviate from Platonic
 “ love ; for which reason the husbands
 “ are perfectly content, and quietly sub-
 “ mit to the observance of this custom.”

FOLLY

F O L L Y CXCVII.

“**M**Y Italian called the very next morning and conducted me to the lady who was to become my despotic queen; she was a widow and turned of thirty, yet still might be accounted a very beautiful woman; she condescended to accept my services, and the same hour I entered on my new employment; and having passed a whole day in affecting a passion I did not feel, making compliments my heart did not allow to be just, and obliged to be subject to the caprice of a woman who had not the least power over my affections, I did not quit her till she retired

retired to rest, and then returned home heartily wearied with this kind of promiscuous Platonic love: I kept up, however, to this fatiguing character for three long days, when sick of so nonsensical a situation, I determined to put an end to it, and took the liberty of throwing myself at her feet on the fourth day, and requesting with the most earnest intreaties for permission to make love for the future in the English manner. Compassion to me as a stranger (I suppose) prevailed on the lady to grant my request, which so enraged the *cicestee* of the inferior order; that one evening as I returned home he gave me three wounds in the back, and the night being very dark, I should never have known to whom I was obliged, had he not left his poignard behind him; which knowing to be

his, as soon as my wounds (which proved neither deep nor dangerous) were healed, I made a point of demanding satisfaction for this treachery ; and after two or three passes, run him through the body, and fortunately escaped undiscovered to my inn.

F O L L Y CXCVIII.

“ **W**ITHOUT giving myself time for repose, I sat out as fast as the horses could carry me, for the Civita Vecchia, where I designed to embark for Spain, and luckily found there a vessel ready to sail for Barcelona: I gladly embarked with all my luggage, and could not think myself in safety till we had sailed some leagues: as soon as arrived at Barcelona, I took post for Madrid; but it is not possible to travel with the same expedition in Spain, as in France or in England, as post horses are scarce, villages very distant, and the inns so very ill provided of accommodation, that if

persons do not take with them their own provision, and even proper utensils to dress it, they may be famished on the road ; besides which, the rats, mice, and other vermin are so insupportable, that it is with great difficulty a good night's repose can be obtained, even if a traveller should be provident enough to take his own bed with him.

F O L L Y CXCIX.

“WHEN I was within one day’s journey of Madrid, my provisions were quite exhausted, and was distressed how to procure a supply, when I arrived at a little despicable looking house honoured with the name of an inn, and was much rejoiced to see before the fire, spits with several sorts of game, and large stewpans, in which were sauces, soups, and ragouts, the smell of which was sufficient to create an appetite. I had no sooner alighted than I eagerly enquired what I could have for supper. “In general (said my landlord) my “lord, I could furnish a table fit for

“ the Infant himself, or any other Prince
 “ of the blood, yet to-night, we cannot
 “ provide you with any thing; but to-
 “ morrow you may have whatever you
 “ please.” “ To-morrow, (replied I, ea-
 “ gerly;) why friend, I am almost famish-
 “ ed at this instant, therefore bring me
 “ something to eat immediately.” “ I am
 “ very sorry it is not in my power (said he
 “ gravely) but it is an absolute fact, no-
 “ thing of any kind can positively be had
 “ here till to-morrow; I have not any
 “ thing of my own in the house to dress
 “ for you, and even if I had, my servants
 “ are now too much engaged to prepare
 “ it.” For whom then (said I) are all these
 “ various dishes now dressing in your kit-
 “ chen?” “ For the supper (answered
 “ he) of Signior Don Alonzo—Cata-
 “ plinos—Alphonso—Aloyas de Zuga-
 “ rate, who never travels without plen-
 “ ty

“ty of provision, yet, for all that, it is impossible for me to procure any part of it for you.” Judge Marquis, how greatly I must be provoked to hear him argue thus calmly, whilst I was six leagues from any other habitation, and even if I could attain it, might not probably be better accommodated. I laid hold of the fellow and nearly strangled him, when (on hearing a disturbance) the noble Spaniard came to enquire the cause of it, and, on being made acquainted with my distresses, politely invited me to partake of his supper; and finding that I was proceeding to Madrid, proposed we should the next day set out at the same time, and travel together: we did so, and during our route became so very sociable, that the Don made me the confident of his passion for a beautiful lady, named Cecilia, for whom he professed the most perfect adoration.

" Yes, (cried he with transport) I confess
 " to you I am the happiest of men: far
 " from treating me with the least degree
 " of rigour, the object of my affection
 " deigns to receive my vows; and I have
 " the greatest reason to be happy in her
 " indulgence, since she grants me every
 " thing a lover can ask. You shall this
 " night be witness to the supreme felicity
 " I enjoy, and accompany me to my
 " charming mistress." I congratulated
 Zugarate on his good fortune, and assured
 him how sensible I was of the confidence
 he had reposed in me. We arrived at Ma-
 drid early in the afternoon, and soon after
 our entrance into the city, passed by a
 very magnificent house which he told
 me was the residence of his adorable
 Cecilia; for which reason we passed se-
 veral times up and down the street,
 yet had not any reason to think that
 we

we were observed, or this piece of gallantry the least attended to by the fair one. The Spaniard, however, was perfectly satisfied with having viewed her windows, and as he had not any hope of an interview till midnight, he promised to call on me at that hour, that I might accompany him to his assignation; in the mean time, he conducted me to an excellent inn, and strongly recommended it to the landlord to be particularly attentive to me; and at the appointed hour, he came muffled up in a long cloak, which concealed most part of his face; under one arm he carried a very long sword, and in the other hand was a guitar; he then lapped me up in a cloak like his own, and though the night was extremely dark, and the streets very dirty, we set out on our perigrination, which was not a

very agreeable one, as we were soon two as dirty knight errants as can be conceived; and to add to our inconveniency, were continually running against other musicians, many of whom like buttresses were standing as close as possible to the walls of different mansions: at last we came to the abode of the goddess of Signior Zugarate; as soon as we arrived under her window, after several profound sighs he drew out his guittar and played several tender airs, and afterwards accompanied with his voice a very lamentable sonnet, composed by himself in praise of his mistress; the accompaniment was however so discordant, and the contortions of his body so very ridiculous, that I could scarce refrain from laughter; the clock now struck four, yet the *amorofo* still continued his music till I was heartily tired, and wished him at the devil very sincerely. I did every
 thing

thing in my power to persuade him to retire, but in vain; at last the window opened, and I discerned (through the lattice) the figure of a woman: Don Zugarate instantly began to pour forth a thousand professions of love, and as many antediluvian complements and old fashioned vows of constancy, to which no other answer was made than a very abrupt enquiry of whom he had with him; he informed the fair inquisitive my name, that I was an Englishman, lodged at such an inn, was his intimate friend, and had that very day arrived at Madrid. When he had ended this intelligence, an hand whiter than snow was passed through the bars of the lattice which I concluded after this introduction, was intended for me to kiss, I therefore raised my arm respectfully to take it, but whilst my lips were fixed upon

it, the love-sick Spaniard, not doubting but the favour was meant for him alone, laid his hands on one of mine and kissed it with the utmost rapture: we were then ordered to retire, which we obeyed, and on our return home, Don Zugarate asked me, (if I did not look upon him as the happiest of mankind?) “ If this (said
“ I) is the sum total of your felicity, it
“ must be owned your wishes are easily
“ satisfied.” “ Heavens! (said he) is not
“ mine the height of human happiness?
“ have I not passed the greatest part
“ of this night under the window of
“ her whom I adore? did she not con-
“ descend to shew herself to me through
“ the lattice, without seeming displeased
“ at the proofs I gave her of my passion?
“ and have not I been permitted to
“ kiss one of the most beautiful hands
“ in the world? happy! superlatively
“ happy

“ happy should I be, were it possible
“ to pass my whole life in the trans-
“ sports I have this night experienced ! ”

These sort of exclamations were continued till we arrived at the inn where I wished the happy lover a good night, or rather a good morning and retired to rest, and resolved never more to be of a love party in Spain, where I was not a principal character.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CC.

“ I Did not rise till late, and was dressing when I was informed a person desired to speak with me; concluding it could be no other than Don Zugarate, I ordered him to be shewn in directly; but to my astonishment, there entered an old woman covered almost to her feet with a long black veil; at her girdle hung a large bunch of keys on the one side, and on the other a very long rosary. “ My son, (said the “ old hag) I have the honour to be “ the respectable Duenna of Donna Cecilia, whom you and Don Zugarate “ entertained at her window last night; “ my lady has a very particular partiality for strangers, and, indeed, “ having brought her up from a child, “ I am generally very indulgent to her “ little caprices, therefore, follow me, “ and

“ and I will introduce you to her im-
 “ mediately through a private door of
 “ which I alone have a key; but, be-
 “ fore I grant you this favour, I must
 “ inform you, that there is a certain
 “ condition annexed to it, which is, that
 “ you must most religiously swear to me,
 “ that the moment you quit my mistress,
 “ you will not only leave Madrid, but
 “ the kingdom of Spain directly; and
 “ also that I shall be at liberty to come
 “ back here with you and see you get
 “ into your chaise for that purpose; but
 “ you must resolve to keep your pro-
 “ mise very sincerely (for your own sake,)
 “ as the vengeance of an enraged Spa-
 “ nish woman is a serious matter: you
 “ understand me, I dare say.” I hesi-
 tated when she had done speaking, be-
 fore I returned any answer, not that I
 scrupled to forego seeing the escorial,
 or,

or, indeed, any other part of Spain, rather than loose a *tete-à-tete* with a fine woman; but my Venetian intrigue ran still in my head, and the adventure of the sack was not entirely obliterated from my memory: at last, “Are you certain (said I) that I run not the least risque in this matter?” “You may rely upon me, returned she, (and the word of Dona Jacintha Pedronina Ladrodina was never disputed by the bravest cavalier in Spain); my measures are too well taken not to succeed, and the father of Cecilia is an old doctard whom I can make believe what ever I think proper; and depend upon it he shall never interrupt your conversation.” These words determined me to accept her invitation, and I promised an implicit obedience to her injunction.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCI.

“ I Presented the Duenna with a handful of gold, which she pocketed with the utmost eagerness, assuring me at the same time, that she was the most disinterested woman in the world; she then pulled down her veil and I lapped myself in my cloak, and we went through several unfrequented streets, till we came to the door of a garden which she opened, and conducted me through several walks to the apartment of Cecilia; but before I entered, the Duenna took out of a cupboard in the anti-chamber a pair of slippers of a very peculiar form, and laid them on the threshold of the door through which I was to pass, without giving me any reason for so doing; when I entered the chamber of Cecilia, I was dazzled with

with her beauty ; her complexion was brown, but animated, and I never beheld a more insinuating countenance ; she appeared not more than eighteen, was elegantly formed, had large black eyes, a charming mouth, and so much life and vivacity that she seemed born to inspire every idea of love and joy.

“ Is he willing to submit to the terms

“ I have proposed (said Cecilia to the old

“ woman, as I entered) ?” “ Yes, ma-

“ dam, (returned she) he quits the king-

“ dom in the same hour that he leaves this

“ apartment.” “ Ah madam ! (cried I,

“ throwing myself at her feet) what con-

“ dition would I not submit to, in order

“ to attain the happiness I now enjoy ?

“ and be assured that if I quit Ma-

“ drid with regret, it will be for no

“ other reason than that I must at

“ the same time, leave behind me

“ the

“ the most charming creature in the
 “ world, the divine Cecilia, in ador-
 “ ing whom, I could wish to spend
 “ all my future life.” Though it is very
 certain I expressed myself very imper-
 fectly in the Spanish language, yet the
 lady appeared very well satisfied with
 my compliment, and the complaisant
 Duenna being retired (to count over
 the gold I had given her) Cecilia con-
 fessed to me that, “ being by chance
 “ looking through the lattice when I
 “ and Don Zugarate passed and re-
 “ passed her house, on our entrance to
 “ Madrid the day before, she was charm-
 “ ed with my person and figure, and was
 “ happy to find that I accompanied him
 “ to her window in the evening, as by
 “ that means she learnt my name, and
 “ where I was to be found ; declared she
 “ looked upon Zugarate as a formal
 “ fool,

“ fool, so far infatuated with the old-
 “ fashioned customs of his country, that
 “ he had no other idea of happiness
 “ but what he enjoyed by thrumming
 “ his guittar under her window, and
 “ that he could never possibly inspire
 “ any other passion than contempt; not-
 “ withstanding which, she acknowledged
 “ she meant most certainly to marry him,
 “ if she met not with a more advantageous
 “ offer.” Our conversation had lasted
 two hours, but was not near so senti-
 mental as those which the fair one held
 with Zugarate, when we heard a noise
 near the door of the chamber. “ I will
 “ go in (cried a voice, which sounded to
 “ me more dreadful than thunder;) I
 “ hope I may be permitted to go into
 “ the apartment of my daughter when-
 “ ever I think proper.—Your conduct
 “ Jacintha is over-nice—I tell you her
 “ brother

“ brother is returned, and longs to em-
 “ brace her.” “ Ah ! (said Cecilia) that is
 “ my father, he is coming hither.” When
 she said these words I trembled from
 head to foot, and would gladly have
 been transported in an instant to the
 very summit of the Pyrenean moun-
 tains, but recovered myself when I heard
 the cracked voice of the Duenna expostu-
 lating with him. “ What are you about,
 “ (cried she) my lord ? would you in-
 “ terrupt the duties of our holy religion ?
 “ do you not see the *sandals* of his reve-
 “ rence at the door of my lady’s apart-
 “ ment, forbid the approach of any
 “ one.” These words had a marvellous
 effect ; the contest was at an end, and all
 being quiet, Cecilia assured me we were
 no longer liable to any interruption.

F O L L Y CCH.

“ALL her endeavours were not, however, sufficient to banish my apprehensions entirely; for though I affected to be perfectly easy, yet I was alarmed at every noise I heard. I was obliged to remain till night in the apartment of Cecilia; and as soon as it was dark, the careful matron came to inform us it was time to part. The faithful mistress and future wife of Don Zugarate then embraced me most affectionately, and put me once more in mind of my promised departure, and that we must never meet again; the old woman then took my hand, and conducted me along an unfrequented gallery, down a pair of back stairs, safely into the street, and
from

from thence we went together to the inn, when my servants seeing me so accompanied, and hearing me order my chaise to get ready directly for my immediate departure, concluded I was going to carry off the old lady as the most curious antiquity of Spain; she was content with seeing me safe in my carriage, and then returned to her lady, whilst my postilions took the road to Catalogna, that province being nearest to the Pyrenees; and when arrived at the foot of those mountains, (which seem intended by nature as the boundaries of France and Spain,) I left my carriage, got upon a mule, and with great difficulty climbed the ascent, and in a few days after entered France, by Perpignan, anticipating in idea the pleasures I was going to enjoy in this dear, delightful kingdom.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y C C I I I .

“THE abrupt manner in which I had quitted Spain, certainly prevented my visiting some places I intended, the theatre in particular ; and the only national observation I had time to make, was, that the streets of Madrid are kept most disgustingly dirty ; but still from this early adventure of mine, I had an opportunity of being perfectly well acquainted with the character of the Spanish ladies, and the absurd customs of their lovers, and I then determined that I would be thoroughly acquainted with France ; and, indeed, you will find that I have not been a superficial observer, for, from my first entrance into it, I constantly enquired (whenever I changed horses,) what were the
the

the curiosities of the town, though I could not always stop to view them. At Toulouse I learned, that the doors and windows of the town house were of equal dimensions. At Cahorsflat, that the first time the Bishop makes his public entry into the town, a particular Viscount is obliged to hold the bridle of his mule bare-headed. At Limoyes, I understood that the inhabitants are so amazingly fond of chestnuts, that they use them by way of sauce to all kinds of dishes. At Orleans, I enquired into the truth of the story of the famous Joan, and my landlord told me most people believed it to be a fact: I likewise observed, as I travelled along, that France abounds in a multitude of public roads, which I take to be a very great addition to the country, since straight lines, bordered with trees on each side, are certainly much more beautiful and

pleasing to the eye, than a variety of intermingled fields, meadows, and vineyards; but I was not, I acknowledge, any judge of these things till I had made this tour: and it is really wonderful, Marquis, to think how young men improve themselves by travelling, both in address and behaviour, not to mention taste. Some wise people say, indeed, it tends to corrupt the morals, but I say so much the better if it does; for they are now grown a mere obsolete word, and banished, thank heaven! from all polite society, and I hope, if ever I had any when I came from home, I shall contrive to leave them behind me.

F O L L Y CCIV.

“ **I** Have now been in Paris six months; and as you know, Marquis, I live at a very great expence, I enjoy all the pleasures of a charming society, besides a great number of intimate friends; for though I do not go to bed till four in the morning, and rise at twelve at noon, yet I am fatigued almost to death every day by the endeavour to fulfil all the engagements I have upon my hands; in short, the delicious pleasures of Paris exceed my most sanguine imagination. Your opera women are most delightful creatures; it is true, we are obliged to purchase their favours at an immense price, but I think it a very fortunate

circumstance that such divinities are to be purchased at any rate ; and if you wish for something of an entanglement, with a little more the appearance of a sentimental passion, the women of rank are not unfashionably cruel, neither are assassinations so dangerous here as in Spain and Italy ; for French husbands are too well bred to be displeased with an elegant young fellow for paying his devoirs to their wife. As to me, (since I left our little Adelaide to the hair-dresser,) I have been engaged to a Countess, for I must say, I have been pretty equally successful at both court and theatre ; and to confess the truth, find little difference between the conduct of the dancer, who receives lovers from avarice, or the fine lady, who ensnares them for the gratification of her vanity."

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCV.

THE recital of Lord Warton's adventures had dissipated the gloom which hung on the Marquis, who thanked him for the entertainment they had afforded him; he then left my lord, and went to see his tragic nymph play Zara. He was charmed with the applause she received, which he considered as a confirmation of his taste in the choice of a mistress; for, as he had not the least real affection for her, she always either rose or sunk in his estimation according to the degree of approbation she met with from the public: enraptured with the manner in which she had represented the character, he went as soon as the play was over, behind the scenes, to tell her that he meant to bring

K 3

some

some friends to sup with her that evening: not meeting with her behind the curtain, he went softly up to her dressing-room; when he came near the door, he heard some one speaking in a low voice, but impassioned accent; he listened attentively, and finding it the voice of the heroine, he concluded she was repeating to herself, and gently opened the door; but, to his surprize, was soon convinced that these tender epithets were not addressed either to an invisible or an ungrateful lover, for he beheld the first tragedian kneeling before her, whilst she was declaring an unabated passion for him, in the most explicit terms. The Marquis was not very well pleased at this discovery; but as his heart was entirely free from any thing like love for this fair inconstant, he resolved to give her up with all the nonchalance which so eminently

eminently distinguishes the man of fashion ; therefore, addressing himself to the lovers, who expected to see him on his entrance very much enraged, he said in a theatrical tone of voice, and the closest imitation of the voice and manner of the actress when on the stage :

- “ Forgive me, beauteous Princess, that
 “ I thus intrude with eye prophane
 “ Into the secret haunts of love and fond
 “ affection ;
 “ Yet, oh ! alas ! it is to bid adieu !—a
 “ long adieu !
 “ And may you thus for ever bless the Man
 “ To whom D’Illois’ content—reigns your
 “ charms.”

He then burst into a sarcastic laugh, and retired, whilst they both remained covered with confusion. The lady deplored her fate in the most pathetic terms, and was almost in fits with vexation to see herself so easily given up, and utterly hopeless

of ever obtaining another man of quality for her lover, since it is an established and invariable rule in the fashionable world, that no man of the ton will ever wish to gain the affections of a woman, whom some of his friends would not be reduced to despair by the loss of.

F O L L Y CCVI.

THE Marchioness D'Illois having suppt one evening with a fashionable party, at the house of a friend, got into her carriage about four o'clock in a winter's morning, in order to return home, most exceedingly out of temper with a bad run of cards; the coachman and footman were half asleep, and the horses almost frozen with cold, having waited at least five hours in the street; she got hastily into the coach, and it had drove some paces before she perceived there was a man laying on the opposite side: extremely terrified, fear rendered her both speechless and immoveable for a few moments, but when she was a little recovered from her first surprise, she perceived he was in a profound sleep. Madame D'Illois was just

going to pull the string to enquire into the reason of this intrusion, when the coachman stopped short, and the carriage was surrounded by footpads, who in a rough voice, and with the most dreadful imprecations threatened her with instant death, if she did not “ deliver her “ purse, watch, and jewels on the instant.” Far from being able to comply with their demand, she fainted away, but these words had fortunately a very different effect on the spirits of her unknown companion, who instantly waked, and drew a pistol from his bosom, and presenting it at the window, “ Fear not, Madam, (said he to the Marchioness) “ rely on me, and I will defend you at “ the hazard of my life.” The robbers who did not expect to meet with any but a female in the coach, were seized with a pannic, and ran away in confusion;

the

the footman called loudly for the watch, and the coachman whipped his horses with great speed: the motion of the carriage brought the Marchioness to life, when her conductor addressed himself to her in the gentlest accents, “ Be no
 “ longer alarmed, Madam, (said he) the
 “ villains are fled, and I am happy to
 “ have had in my power to have rendered
 “ you this service, yet, cannot help being
 “ surpris’d to find a lady can possibly
 “ run the risque of being alone in a
 “ carriage at this hour of the night; it
 “ is not, I believe, a very general custom
 “ for women to return after midnight
 “ unattended, since they may be liable
 “ to other insults, if not as dangerous,
 “ yet full as disagreeable as that you
 “ have now met with.”

F O L L Y CCVII.

A Loud laugh was all the reply made by Madame D'Illois to this remonstrance, which, as her defender was at a loss to guess the reason of, he remained silent, and doubted not but he had said something very absurd. "May I request the favor of knowing, Sir, (said the Marchioness) how I come to have the pleasure of finding you in my coach?" "Really madam, (answered the gentleman) I was just going to ask the same question of you. I am madam, a man of fortune, come from a very distant province, on account of a law suit which is now depending; and being obliged to solicit persons who live very

“ very distant from each other, I hired a
 “ *remise* for the day; and going this
 “ evening to supper, at the house of a
 “ friend very near this place, I ordered
 “ the coach-man to fetch me at twelve;
 “ after staying an hour and a half,
 “ I came out of the house, intending to
 “ walk home; but having gone a few
 “ paces and seeing a coach waiting, con-
 “ cluded it was mine, left by the coach-
 “ man whilst he was diverting himself at
 “ the alehouse: tired with calling for
 “ him, and finding it very disagreeable
 “ to stand in the street in the dark, I
 “ got into the carriage and soon after
 “ fell asleep, and waked not a little
 “ surpris’d to find I had a lady for a
 “ companion.” “ This mistake is
 “ easily accounted for, (said Madame
 “ D’Illois laughing) and you have only
 “ got into my coach instead of your
 “ own.”

“ own.” These words shocked the provincial exceedingly; he was confused and seemed to apprehend he had been guilty of a most unpardonable rudeness; he stammered a thousand incoherent apologies:—to add to his confusion, the coach soon after drove into a spacious court yard to the door of a magnificent hotel, where he saw an elegant stair case lighted in the most superb stile; he offered the Marchioness his hand to conduct her to her apartment and then prepared to retire, though Madame D’Illois repeatedly pressed him to stay for half an hour; he pleaded that it was extremely late, that she must be discomposed by her fright and want rest, and it was with the greatest difficulty she could prevail on him to suffer her equipage to conduct him home: with evident signs of humility he requested permission to enquire after her the
next

next day—so different are the provincial confined ideas of politeness when compared to those very liberal sentiments of persons of fashion, which distinguish the the young men of the present age, whose approbation is testified by rudeness, and who are never civil but to those women whom they dislike.

F O L L Y CVIII.

MADAME D'Illois was not perfectly pleased with being so respectfully treated; she was angry at the timidity with which he addressed her, for in the very short time she had been with him, his countenance pleased her extremely, whilst the novelty of a conquest over an heart so intirely unacquainted with the world, flattered her vanity; and as the service he had rendered her, gave him a kind of claim to her notice and acquaintance, the Marchioness determined to exert all her art to inspire him with a passion, which, she did not doubt but his want of knowledge of the world would improve into a romantic one, which would afford her more amusement than any of
those

those fashionable amours she had hitherto been engaged in: having formed this resolution, she passed the rest of the night in dreaming of the fine person and insinuating voice of her deliverer, and waked early with the idea of receiving his promised morning visit.

F O L L Y CCIX.

THE charms of the beautiful Marchioness had made no small impression on the heart of her new acquaintance; he blessed the fortunate accident by which he had been serviceable to so lovely a woman, and was transported with the thought that he should behold her the next morning; he therefore rose early and having dressed himself to the greatest advantage, flew to the hotel of Madame D'Illois; but what was his disappointment when he heard she was not yet awake: "I fear then (said he to the
"porter) that my impatience to pay
"my respects to your lady, has made
"me come at an improper hour, as I
"presume it cannot be so late as I had
imagined;

“ imagined ; but, (continued he, looking at his watch) sure, friend, your lady cannot be asleep at half past twelve.” The Servant smiled at the simplicity of the question.—“ Do you not know, sir, (answered he) that ladies of quality never wake before three ?” The provincial blushed, on finding he had thus exposed his ignorance of *bon ton*, and retired hastily, saying he would return ; he then went to take a walk, concluding that it was undoubtedly the fashion at Paris, not to pay morning visits to ladies till after dinner.

F O L L Y CCX.

HE returned again, a few minutes before the hour appointed: the Marchioness had just rung her bell, and when she heard the stranger was below, she ordered her looking glass to be brought to her, and having put on her most becoming night dress, ordered him to be admitted before she rose. Her unfashionable visitor was extremely surprised on being introduced into her bedchamber; and not doubting but she was dangerously ill with the fright she had undergone, he advanced on tip toe to the bedside, and enquired after her health in a very incoherent manner; whilst the Marchioness, adorned with all the negligent graces of refined coquetry, was reclined on her pillows in the most becoming attitude; and conscious that she looked enchantingly handsome, ordered the

the shutters to be opened and the curtains drawn up. The poor provincial was so astonished at this reception, that he scarce dare raise his eyes to Madame D'Illois, but seated himself at a respectful distance, lest he should offend her by his presumption; and after an hour spent in talking very fluently (on the part of the Marchioness) on the evening's adventure, with answers in monosyllables from her deliverer, he retired, but was invited to dinner the following day; after which they went to the opera, and then supped *tete à tete*. The timid admirer thus encouraged, grew more bold, and on finding that the more familiar he grew the better he was received, took courage and behaved with so proper a degree of presumption, that in less than five days from their first acquaintance, he became the favoured lover of Madame D'Illois.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y CCXI.

THE Marchioness became so extremely attached to her new lover, that her whole time was entirely devoted to him; and, for the enjoyment of his society, she gave up all public diversions, all private parties, and every amusement she was once so fond of; and not content with being inseparable when in Paris, they frequently quitted the town and went for three or four days into the country, for the pleasure of being together without interruption; and so great was their apparent sympathy and affection, that it seemed impossible any accident could arise, to destroy their felicity. For a whole month did they continue the friends, companions, and lovers of each other; but

but, at the end of that period, he was obliged to go into the country on particular business relative to his law suit, and was to be detained there three long days. As his time was to be intirely devoted to business, Madame D'Illois could not accompany him ; but she suffered so much from the idea of his leaving her, tho' for so short a time, that her sighs and tears pierced him to the heart, and he generously almost wished himself less beloved, rather than see her suffer so much from her extreme fondness and exquisite sensibility ; at length he tore himself from her embraces, after repeating a thousand vows of constancy, and making the most solemn promise to accelerate his return by every means in his power.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y CCXII.

TRUE to his word, and agreeable to his inclination, at the expiration of the three days, he returned to Paris, and was set down at the door of the Marchioness, having pictured to himself for the last ten leagues, the joy with which he should be received and the delight she would express at his punctuality; but to his surprise, Madame D'Illouis did not rise from her seat on his apperance, and treated him with such coldness that she scarce deigned to look upon him; and after having asked him a few questions relative to his journey, which she told him (she thought had been extremely expeditious), she complained of a very violent head
ach;

ach; and, finding that hint did not succeed according to her wishes, by obliging him to retire, but that on the contrary he expressed his sorrow for her indisposition, and wished to stay to entertain her, she repulsed his careffes with disdain, quarrelled with him violently for treating her with so little respect; and absolutely forbid him for the future to continue his visits. The poor provincial shocked to the last degree, at the alteration in her behaviour, retired in disorder, and as he had really a very sincere passion for the Marchioness, could scarcely restrain his tears; yet, as he could not comprehend the cause of this behaviour, he flattered himself that it was the mere caprice of a fine woman, and that love would soon seal his pardon for a fault which had been involuntary, and vainly hoped that this little altercation would sweeten their reconcilia-

tion. Thus erroneously did he judge of a fashionable female heart, as if susceptible of the same sensations which are the result of artless truth and amiable sincerity in the bosom of innocence and modesty. Deluded by the hope of finding those virtues in Madame D'Illois, with which she was wholly unacquainted, he ventured the next day to call at her door, but she was not at home; and having repeated his visits till the fourth day, he was then told, "That it would be entirely needless
 " to give himself any further trouble,
 " as it was her positive orders that he
 " should never more be admitted."
 Finding he could not obtain the favour of a private audience, he then endeavoured to see her at a third place, not doubting but the sight of a man whom she had so tenderly loved, would once more awaken her affection, and restore him to happiness.

He

He was so fortunate at last as to meet her at the house of a friend (to whom she had introduced him), and where the company was so numerous that they might hold a conversation unobserved: he trembled when she entered, but at last took courage to address himself to her with the energy of a lover and the familiarity of an old acquaintance. The Marchioness listened to him with the most chilling civility, returned him several low courtesies as answers to his professions of love, and despair, and observed all the distant politeness due to a stranger, which so entirely disconcerted him that she easily disengaged herself from him, which she had no sooner done, than she asked in a loud whisper so as to be overheard by him, "Who that stupid animal could possibly be, who made so many protestations of love and admiration to a woman to whom

“whom he could owe nothing but respect!” This speech, and the contemptuous air which accompanied it, so affected her lover that he was at once a prey to the most violent contending passions; and unable any longer to conceal his emotions, he retired hastily, and instantly got into his chaise to return to his rural habitation.

F O L L Y CCXIII.

TO explain the enigma which had so puzzled the poor provincial, we shall take a retrospect of the conduct of the Marchioness during the three days absence of her lover, which had thus entirely exiled him from her good graces: on on the first, she remained inconsolable, could neither eat or sleep, and her whole employment was in writing the greatest part of a long letter to him, which she resolved to send after him by an express the next day; but it was absolutely impossible for her to fulfil her intention, for the very next morning her millener brought her home a cap, so elegantly ornamented with feathers, and so exceedingly becoming, that she could not resist the desire she had to appear in it that evening at the opera. In the box exactly opposite

to her own (which was that of the Duchefs De —) fat a very elegant handsome young man, whose eyes were fixed on Madame D'Illois from the moment she entered, in spite of all the endeavours of the Duchefs to fix his attention on herself. Proud of such a conquest, and so evident a triumph over the Duchefs, (who had long been her rival in beauty,) the Marchionefs determined to pursue her victory, and having had an invitation to sup with the Duchefs, which she had refused, (whilst determined to seclude herself during the absence of her lover) she now resolved to accept it, in hopes of meeting the handsome stranger: the Duchefs, on the contrary, was extremely mortified when she saw her enter, adorned with every grace art and nature could bestow. Madame D'Illois made her apologies for the intrusion with infi-

nite

nite wit and vivacity, and her new admirer was introduced to her by the name of the Duke de Wilcan, a German of high distinction; they sat next each other at supper, soon became perfectly acquainted—he afterwards conducted her home—attended her toilette the following morning—and so charmed the inconstant Marchioness that she looked back with surprise on her love for the provincial—was quite ashamed of having been guilty of such a depravation of taste, and of having devoted so much of her time to a being quite unknown in the *beau monde*; even blushed at the recollection of her past folly—burnt the letter she had nearly finished—and formed a resolution to receive him in the manner already related.

F O L L Y CCXIV.

THE Marquis D'Illouis having been deceived by two of his mistresses, lavished all his fondness on the only one which remained; and being determined, if possible, to engage her gratitude, and even make it her interest to prove true to him, he made her the most magnificent presents, the particulars of which it would be tedious to enumerate; but amongst a variety of others, were a purse, with brilliant sliders, and a pair of very fine shoe buckles, the first of which he had the mortification to see in less than a fortnight in the hands of a professed gamester at a public gaming table; and the latter, a few days after, worn by the Harlequin in the Italian comedy. Most sincerely mortified by the preference given to such unworthy rivals, he instantly discarded

carded the perfidious charmer, and was so vexed by the repeated infidelities of the ladies of the theatre, that he was tempted to wish that he lived on better terms with his wife; and had Madame D'Illois been the amiable, virtuous woman, whose character inspires the libertine with respect, and whose tenderness and fidelity makes him mentally blush for his continuation in errors he has not sufficient resolution to amend, it is more than probable the Marquis would now have sought the path of peace and domestic happiness; but being, by the conduct of the Marchioness, secluded from the least prospect of felicity with her, he soon recovered his gaiety, and eagerly assiduous in pursuit of pleasure, resolved to seek a new *Sultana* to supply the place of the three who had forsaken him.

F O L L Y CCXV.

AMidst the number of those beauties in the fashionable world, whose splendour was supported by the folly of their admirers, none were more the delight of one sex, or the envy of some part of the other, than the elegant Julia, who lived at the expence of a rich financier, who allowed her a princely income, a magnificent hotel, a vast number of jewels, and the most elegant carriages, with all the douceurs of balls, suppers, and concerts, which she gave every evening to all the young and gay men in Paris. It seemed almost vain for Monsieur D'Illois to attempt to seduce the affection of a woman from a lover, whose

whose fortune and liberality gratified every desire that her vanity or ambition could form ; but the Marquis affected so much to despise a man, whose riches were acquired by his industry, and so artfully insinuated, that her charms were degraded whilst in the possession of a plebeian, that she preferred rank to riches ; and in a week after she became acquainted with the Marquis, she wrote to the financier, that *reasons of the utmost importance* forbid her longer continuance with him, and requested he would think on her no more.

F O L L Y CCXVI.

THE financier, excessively enraged at this treatment, was preparing to set out immediately for her hotel, to oblige her to return the presents he had made to her, and break the furniture he had so foolishly bestowed; but when the bearer of the letter informed him, that she quitted him for the Marquis D'Illois, he was awed by the greatness of the connection, and had not spirit enough to resent an injury when the perpetrator of it was a nobleman; and so far from prosecuting his first design, he treated her with the most unbounded generosity, and permitted her to keep all she possessed from his prodigality, yet,
not

not from any remaining affection or regard to her, but merely to astonish her new lover by this method of proceeding, and shew what immense wealth he must be master of, who could thus permit a woman to carry away with her furniture and jewels to so large an amount, though her behaviour to him had been replete with baseness and ingratitude: but far from this conduct having the effect on Monsieur D'Illois that the financier intended, both he and Julia laughed at his folly, and ridiculed his ill-timed liberality wherever they went.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCXVII.

“**T**HE delicate beauty, who had thus engaged the transitory affections of Monsieur D’Illois, was the daughter of a cobbler, whose honesty and jocularity made him known in the neighbourhood by the name of father Lucas. Unfortunately for the good man, he lost an excellent wife, just at the time that his daughter (who was christened Magdalen) was most in want of the care and attention of a mother; and to complete the misfortune of the father, the daughter was beautiful and well shaped, and very ready to listen to the young men, who assiduously paid their court to her in their vulgar manner. The cobbler, who though in a low station of life, had more understanding

standing than is usually possessed by such kind of people, soon grew uneasy at the notice she attracted, and would gladly have placed her in a family, but she had the misfortune to have been born without a palate to her mouth, which prevented her the least hope of getting any kind of service, as her speech was unintelligible except to those accustomed to converse with her: so circumstanced, the old man determined to take all the care of her in his power; therefore gave up his stall at the corner of the street, and contented himself with working at old shoes in the garret where he lodged, and obliged our heroine to take in stockings to mend, and sit and work by his side, much against her inclination: as she was heartily detested any kind of employment—hated this new regulation very sincerely—and neglected to finish every thing she undertook.

took. The old man frequently addressed her in *extempore* harangues, on the advantages of industry in young women, yet all his eloquence on this subject was vain; she grew daily more obstinate, and he at length quite wearied by her ungovernable disposition, used to beat her very severely, especially when he returned home intoxicated from a neighbouring alehouse; which, to say the truth, generally happened at least five nights in the week. The poor girl in consequence of this ill treatment, became more willing than ever to listen to the tender declarations of her lovers; and the gentleness and affection with which she was treated abroad, served to render home more disagreeable, and made her look upon her father as the most hateful of men, and the worst of tyrants.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y CCXVIII.

“**T**HE bewitching smiles, and blooming graces, of the cobbler’s daughter, had made a deep impression on the heart of an notary, who lived next door but one; he observed her every time she went out, would follow her, and take every opportunity to declare his love; and one day, made her an absolute offer to take her a ready furnished lodging, where she should be her own mistress, provided she would return his affection and be constant to him. Julia (as she has since named herself) resisted these offers of the notary with the most resolute virtue; and as she did not much like him, it is probable she might

might have continued to have rejected them, had not Lucas returned two or three nights after from the alehouse, more drunk than ever, and on finding her looking out at the window, he gave her so violent a blow that it deprived her of her senses, and left her motionless on the floor: when she came to herself, she made a resolution no longer to submit to this usage, but packed up the very few clothes she had, and the next morning before her father was awake, went to the notary and implored his protection, which he granted very readily, and was transported with joy, that he had so unexpectedly obtained the object of his wishes.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCXIX.

“**T**HE notary immediately provided her with a lodging, which he furnished very handsomely, and bought her clothes made in the most fashionable stile; thus situated and adorned, there was not any occasion to disguise her further, since father Lucas had he met with her, would not have known his own child: her lover placed an old maid servant both to attend her, and, at the same time, to be a kind of a spy upon her actions, for he was extremely jealous, and constantly visited her *incognito*, once a day, and at length became so extremely fond of her, that he most ardently wished to remedy the defect in her speech; and for that

that purpose took her to a very eminent surgeon, famous for rectifying all defects in the mouth, and teaching the deaf and dumb to speak; who, on examining the cause of her complaint, perceived that it entirely arose from the want of a palate; he therefore agreed with the notary for a certain sum of money—had a silver palate made by his direction, and placed it so judiciously within her mouth, that she was soon enabled to speak with the greatest propriety. The joy of such an acquisition gave her new life and vivacity, and rendered her every day more charming; and this palate, which it was impossible to discern without looking into her mouth, rendered Julia some time after more celebrated than her personable charms, and occasioned some of the most remarkable revolutions in her life.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCXX.

“**T**HE poor notary was extremely unfortunate in this amour ; for, after having been at an infinity of expence to teach the object of his affection, to speak plain, almost the first use she made of her speech was, to declare to the handsome footman of her benefactor, that she had conceived a passion for him. Champagne was extremely transported with the declaration, and proposed that they should take the first opportunity of quitting both the notary and the kingdom ; chance was soon favorable to their wishes, the notary was obliged to go a journey, and during his absence, the footman broke open a bureau, and robbed him of a considerable

considerable sum of money, and the ungrateful Julia (whom he had rescued from indigence and misfortune) having given the maid an holiday, sent privately for a broker, to whom she sold the whole of the furniture at his own price, received the cash, and then step'd with Champagne into a post chaise, went directly to Calais where they embarked immediately for Dover, and arrived safely in London.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCXXI.

“**M**onsieur Champagne now took upon him the character of a man of fashion and family, who with his wife had been obliged to quit France suddenly on an affair of honour, and who sought an asylum in England till the event of the wound of his antagonist was known: they took a lodging at the house of a widow, who being of a sociable disposition, and charmed with the modest deportment of the pretended Madame Champagne, introduced them to her acquaintance, and cheerfully accompanied them to all places of public amusement. Champagne soon became weary of his mistress, but as he left her

entirely

entirely at liberty to form her own engagements, and go out as often as she pleased, she thought her life a very agreeable one, and was perfectly happy. One day a young friend sent to Julia, to desire her to go the next day, on a party into the country; but as they did not wish the landlady to make one of the company, it was to be a secret, and Monsieur Champagne, having (as he had generally done for some time) declined going with his wife, Julia went out by herself, to the house of the lady, very early in the morning, and from thence to Richmond, where having passed an agreeable day, they returned to town by water, and it being a fine moon light night, did not get to London till midnight. When Julia entered the house, the servant who opened the door expressed herself greatly surprised at her return,

and

and on calling down her mistress, Julia was astonished to find she was come back very unexpectedly: “ For how is it possible (said the landlady) I should ever think of seeing you any more, when your husband this very morning paid me all that was due, took your property away with him, and told me that he was obliged to go back suddenly to France, and was to overtake you at Dover, for which place you had set out in the morning; and the reason you had not taken leave of me, was his having enjoined you to secrecy for very particular reasons.” Thunderstruck by this information, Julia was some time before she could recover her spirits sufficiently to go into her former apartments, and when she did, found it divested of all her wardrobe, and that he had not left her even a second change of linen :

shocked at being thus reduced at once to poverty and wretchedness, by the baseness of her lover, she was for several hours nearly deprived of her reason; and when she came to her senses; reflection served but to redouble her sorrows, and she passed the whole night in tears and un-availing lamentations.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCXXII.

“THE next morning she had the mortification to find that the friendship of her landlady was grown extremely cool; and in two or three days after, she took an opportunity to inform her, that she must remove the very next morning, as she had let the apartment: thus poor Julia, after turning every thing she could possibly spare, into cash, for present subsistence, was forced to quit her lodgings for a miserable room, in an obscure court; and live with the greatest oeconomy, lest she should be reduced to die with hunger. She went daily to enquire after Champagne, at every house she knew he had frequented, hoping he might be still in

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England;

England ; and vainly flattering herself that, though he might have wished to deceive his landlady, and change his lodgings, yet he would still seek her out, and not leave her to perish miserably for want, in a strange country. Day after day thus passed on, till at length she was compelled to believe, that he had indeed forsaken her like a villain ; and she began to feel the terrifying approaches of famine, not having eat any thing, but one halfpenny roll for two days ; when a man, who lived in the next garret (and who followed the laudable occupation of a pickpocket) seeing her meagre appearance, offered her part of his dinner, which she joyfully accepted ; and before the repast was at an end, they grew so well acquainted by the assistance of bad French and broken English, in which Julia could now make herself tolerably under-

understood, that he invited her to share half his room and the precarious livelihood he obtained : thus reduced to the utmost misery, and almost starving, she did not hesitate a moment, but consented to become his future companion ; and removed herself (which was all she had to convey) that very evening into his wretched habitation.

F O L L Y CCXXIII.

“SHE had lived with him some time, when one day as she was walking with him near Charing-cross, they met a porter with a load on his back, who proved to be an old acquaintance of the pickpocket; and so rejoiced were they at this accidental meeting, that they agreed, that when the porter had deposited his burden, they would meet at a certain alehouse and drink together. He returned in less than half an hour, and took such an extraordinary fancy to Julia, that he not only generously offered to pay for as much as she could drink, but told his friend, that if he would sell her, he would give him half a crown. The pickpocket at first made some difficulty to

to part with her, and declared that, "She
 " was so very pretty, so good humoured,
 " and had so many good qualities, that
 " he could not possibly take less than five
 " shillings;" but the porter resolutely de-
 clared that, "Take it or leave it, he would
 " give no more than the first offered half
 " crown." The other having wisely con-
 sidered, that he should not only gain the
 half crown, but at the same time, get rid
 of an incumbrance who shared great part
 of his profits, he consented, and struck
 the bargain, amidst a croud of laughing
 spectators, who were highly delighted
 with the jest of a man selling his wife;
 and many of them declared, that had he
 taken a fancy to theirs, far from exacting
 half a crown, they would have given him
 double the sum, to have had them taken
 off their hands.

F O L L Y CCXXIV.

“**T**HE porter carried off Julia in spite of her extreme unwillingness to accompany him, and took her home with him to a cellar in St. Giles’s. They descended through a door, which served the double purpose, both of entrance and window, to this wretched abode, the furniture of which, was exactly suited to the meanness of the place; and poor Julia being extremely dissatisfied with her new lover, returned no other answer to his repeated questions, but sighs and tears, till the porter at last, being out of all patience, accused her of sullenness, took up a switch in his hand—struck his night cap on one side—knit his brows, and told her
in

in a tone of voice, which made her tremble, " That he desired, she would not pretend to give herself airs, that he had given a great deal of money for her, most likely more than she was worth; and that if she did not behave as she ought, and love him as well as the man whom she had left, he could assure her, he should not make the least ceremony of breaking her bones." These words had the desired effect; Julia became perfectly obedient, and soon accustomed to the rough humour and brutal behaviour of the porter.

F O L L Y CCXXV.

“**J**ULIA had doubtless daily opportunities of making her escape from this wretch, but then whither could she go? Unknown to any person, a stranger to the language, and intirely unable to get her bread, she must probably have again run the risque of dying with hunger; as it was, she was provided with plenty of food, and even clothes, such as they were: he was absent all day, and as he was as fond of her as he could be of any thing, he frequently took her with him to the alehouse, where, having a tolerable voice, she used to sing French songs to the people who resorted thither, for which they now and then rewarded her with a few

few half-pence. One evening she had drank with them till she was nearly intoxicated, and singing as loud as she possibly could, in the midst of the song, she opened her mouth so extremely wide, that the porter for the first time discovered the silver palate, and instantly concluding some of the company had given her a shilling, which she thus meant to secret from him, he laid hold on her shoulder with one hand, and putting the other into her mouth, “ Ah, ah! (said he) you
 “ vile woman, you hide your money
 “ from me; do you?” He then laid hold of the palate with his finger and thumb, and took it by violence out of her mouth. Poor Julia in vain endeavoured to vindicate herself, for having now been so long accustomed to this assistance, she could not articulate a syllable without it, but cried out in the most frightful
 M 6 manner,

manner, groaned, and threw herself on the floor with such dreadful contortions, that the porter, concluding that he had done her some very essential injury, ran away for fear of being punished, taking with him the silver palate, which he sold at the shop of the first silversmith he came to.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCXXVI.

“THE people belonging to the alehouse, were so alarmed at the agonies in which they beheld the unfortunate creature, that they concluded that she must surely be seized with a sudden frenzy, they therefore called in the assistance of a quack doctor that lived at the very next door, who being a very great admirer of the ladies, found his patient so extremely pretty, that no one present having a claim to her, he declared, that “ She must be immediately removed to “ his house, as the cure could only be “ perfected under his own eye; for the “ most attentive care was absolutely necessary.” As none of the company guessed his motive for this proposal, Julia was carried thither directly, and the doctor’s great goodness of heart, and charity to the poor, were extolled to the skies.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y CCXXVII.

“**A**S the itinerant physician admired his patient, he endeavoured by every method in his power to restore her speech; but in vain did he search Galen and Hippocrates—no remedy that was applied had the least efficacy, and she remained as dumb as she was the first hour she came into the house. Weary of this painful situation, she determined, if possible, to make him comprehend the cause of her silence, and having never learnt to write, she passed great part of her time in copying printed letters from books upon paper; and at last by dint of extreme application, was enabled to write on a piece of paper in
print

print hand, that “ her silence was occasioned by the loss of a silver palate.” The doctor was transported with joy at this discovery, and resolved that this fortunate accident should contribute to raise his medical reputation ; he therefore soon after publicly advertised, that “ He “ had a dumb patient under his care, “ whose cure he would perfect in less “ than a month.” Many persons came to see Julia ; and after as many as he thought fit were convinced of the impossibility of her speaking to be understood, he procured a silver palate, and having fixed it into her mouth, the cure was universally acknowledged to be an almost miraculous one ; the skill of the empiric was raised to the skies, and Julia was once more restored to the comforts of speech, and the pleasures of society.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCXXVIII.

“**M** Ademoiselle Julia now lived with the physician in every respect as his wife, and might have continued to live with him, most probably, for a long time, had she not taken a fancy to a young merchant, who was a patient of the doctor's, and who frequently dined at his table. As he admired Julia very much, he took every opportunity to make himself agreeable to her; and she gave him so much encouragement, that at last, being obliged to go to Paris on some mercantile affairs, he offered to take her with him, provided she would consent to disguise herself in boys clothes; (for being a married man, and not a *man of fashion,*

fashion, it was necessary for him to observe, at least, the appearance of decency in his actions, however really immoral in his conduct). To this proposition Julia made not the least objection, as she thought the dress would become her exceedingly, therefore got every thing ready by the time fixed, and without bidding the doctor adieu, set off one fine morning with the young merchant for France.

“**A**S soon as they arrived at Paris, Julia resumed the habit of her sex, and the young merchant cheerfully bestowed on her an elegant wardrobe, as a compensation for that which it would have been impossible for her to have brought from the doctor's, without subjecting them to a discovery. They lived together four months in a very sociable manner, till the young man having transacted all his business, and having not any pretence to stay any longer at Paris, he was obliged to bid his fair companion an eternal adieu, and embark for England, leaving her, however, a small sum of money as some compensation for the loss of his company, which, however, it must be owned, she bore very patiently.

F O L L Y CCXXX.

“**J**ULIA was not of a disposition to sigh for the loss of a lover; but having prudently considered what she should do, she laid out the greatest part of the money in additional ornaments for her person, in hopes of gaining another still more generous; and for this purpose exhibited herself by turns at the Comedie-Tuilleries, Palais-Royale, and the Boulevards, till her cash being nearly exhausted, misery began once more to appear to her in its most horrid form, till at last she was obliged to condescend to receive as a visitor, any man who would pay for her supper; the only meal she was enabled sometimes to make for several days together.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCXXXI.

“SHE had lived this wretched life for near a month, each day accumulating infamy and shame; when she one evening was accosted by a man in the street, who, after giving her a supper, returned with her to her lodging, and from beholding her distressed circumstances, concluded she would live with him on almost any terms: he happened to be in want of a servant, and being very avaricious, thought it would be the cheapest way of keeping a mistress; he therefore told her that he was in want of a person to take care of the family, and if she chose to act in that capacity, she should be welcome to her board as long as she behaved well: this was an offer not to be refused in her situation; and he, the next evening, took her home to his house.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y CEXXXII.

“**M**ONS. Brusquot, (which was the name of her new acquaintance) was a money-lender by profession, and a rogue from trade and inclination. Some weeks after she had taken possession of her new station, as she was standing at the window one morning, she saw a very elegant chariot stop at the door, which she was preparing to open, but was prevented by her master who opened it himself, and conducted the stranger directly to his closet. This circumspection awakened the curiosity of Julia, who was tempted to listen at the door with great attention, and heard them count over a considerable sum of money, and likewise settle

settle together in the most circumstantial manner what persons they should assist with small sums, taking care not to advance too much at a time, lest it should be sufficient to settle their affairs, and prevent, instead of accelerate, their ruin, --whom they should arrest—and then read over a list of those unfortunate persons who were to starve in prison, by way of example to others: they next proceeded to a division of their gain, or rather the profit they had raised on the misfortunes of their fellow creatures, and then congratulated each other on having realized from unlawful interest, the principal three times over. Julia, who had not an hard heart was shocked at the inhumanity of these wretches, yet wished to see the person and countenance of so extraordinary a being, as from his sentiments she concluded this friend

friend of her master's must be; she therefore placed herself so as to get a view of him as he went to his carriage, but no sooner had she obtained one look, than a loud cry expressed both her surprise and joy, and she threw her arms round his neck, to the infinite astonishment of Brusquot, who frowned and bit his lips at this extraordinary salutation, but in vain.

FOLLY

“THE person on whom Julia bestowed these lively caresses, was no other than the notary to whom she fled for protection from her father’s cruelty and ill-treatment; but he was now no longer *that* notary, whose shabby black coat and formal curled wig were the external signs of his profession; on the contrary, the richness of his dress, the *en-bon-point* of his person (which was encreased to such a degree that he could neither move without shaking the whole room, or draw his breath but with the utmost difficulty) proclaimed that he was now become a rich financier, who had not, however, forgot his old acquaintance.

“Ah! my dear child, (said he, re-
 “turning her embraces) how happy am
 “I to have met with you once more,
 “notwithstanding your ungrateful beha-
 viour,

“viour, and the unworthy manner in
 “which you quitted me—but I will
 “forget your past errors, and provide
 “handsomely for you: come along with
 “me, and you shall be constrained to
 “acknowledge, that the height of hu-
 “man happiness is to be the mistress of
 “a financier.” At the end of this speech,
 he gave her his hand, which Mademoi-
 selle Julia (it cannot be supposed made
 the least hesitation to accept) but without
 waiting for the formality of asking Monf.
 Brusquot his consent, stepped into the gilt
 carriage of the financier, who gravely
 placed himself by her side, and poor
 Brusquot who had followed them to the
 door, was so awed by the riches of his
 competitor, that he with a smile assisted
 his mistress in getting into the chariot,
 though his heart was that moment a prey
 to all the agonies of rage and despair.

F O L L Y CCXXXIV.

“**T**HUS become the favourite of a financier, Julia with infinite delight beheld herself in the most brilliant situation; she had a large hotel, richly furnished; the best man cook in Paris; gave the most elegant dinners; had a box at the opera; jewels in abundance; a fine carriage, and a multitude of servants, dressed superior to any duchess; wore beautiful natural *bonquets* in winter, yet disdained to put on any in summer but the most expensive artificial ones; began to complain of the *head-ach* frequently; the *vapours* often; and was always *nervous* to the last

last degree; and in short acquired very soon such a predilection in favour of title and rank, that she received all the presents of the financier with disdain, as being made her by a man of obscure origin; and on the very first proposal made to her by the Marquis D'Illois, she left the financier, who had bestowed on her such profusion of riches, and vainly imagined that the quality of the Marquis reflected honour on the woman with whom he was connected in a dishonourable manner.

F O L L Y CCXXXV.

“**D**uring the whole time Julia had been in France, she had kept the defect in her mouth a profound secret, and when she took the palate out (which was always once in twenty-four hours) she used to retire, and bolt herself in a closet; but one day dressing in great haste (whilst Monsieur D’Illois and some friends were waiting for her to go on a party into the country) she forgot to fasten the door while performing this operation, and one of her women coming in hastily to tell her the company were impatient, she had not the presence of mind to replace the palate in her mouth before she spoke; but endeavouring to chide her
for

for her impertinence, made so frightful a noise, that the poor girl ran hastily out of the room, and meeting one of the company in the anti-chamber, (who eagerly enquired the cause of her consternation) she informed him, "that her lady was suddenly struck dumb."

F O L L Y CCXXXVI.

“**E**Xtremely astonished by this intelligence, the gentleman eagerly enquired where she had left Julia, immediately ran thither, and found her not yet sufficiently recovered to be able to remedy the defect, and so much agitated by his unexpected entrance, that the palate dropped from her hand on the floor, which he picked up; but Julia too much alarmed (from what she had before suffered) to trust it in any one’s possession, snatched it from him with passion, and put it into her mouth; he was most exceedingly surpris’d at the action, and concluded she had most certainly swallowed the piece of silver. Amazed to the
highest

highest degree, he expected she would expire in convulsions in a few minutes, and immediately gave a loud cry for assistance; the company alarmed, entered the room, to whom he related what he had seen. Julia had by thistime recovered herself, and endeavoured to pass off the whole transaction as a jest; but though her friends had too much respect for the Marquis, and politeness for the fair sex to contradict her, yet they had too much pleasure in telling a drole story to keep it a secret; thus it was soon whispered about, and Julia for a long time after known by the appellation of the *Beauty with the silver voice.*"

F O L L Y CCXXXVII.

THE Baron D'Urbin still at his *chateau*, as gay and ridiculous as ever, found that he had but vainly flattered himself when he hoped that he should be more successful with rural than Parisian beauties; those of the village were, indeed, at first proud of the notice of a man of his rank, but when they once became familiar with him, and had lost by frequent conversations the respect which his quality had at first inspired, they treated him with more freedom than he had been accustomed to from better bred women, and openly expressed the disgust he excited both from his person and age, and repulsed the liberties he took

took and with the greatest disdain. The Baron finding that the country was not likely to be productive of amusement, and being quite tired of over-looking workmen, left the finishing of the *cha-teau* to the taste and experience of the architect, and set off post for Paris.

F O L L Y CCXXXVIII.

AS the Baron was going along in a very narrow road, he was overtaken by a kind of *cabriolé*, which contained two persons; and the driver being extremely awkward in endeavouring to pass the Baron's chaise, he ran directly against it, and broke his own machine all to pieces; the screams which issued from it gave Monsieur D'Urbain great reason to suppose the unfortunate people must be greatly hurt; he therefore stopped, and gave orders to his servants to assist them, they drew out a man and a woman, both dreadfully frightened but very little hurt; and the Baron was not a little surprised to recognize the man for a fashionable

shionable kind of abbé whom he had
 seen frequently at court, but who now
 wore a very elegant riding frock, and
 had all the appearance of a man of the
 world. “ Ah ! (cried the Baron) is it
 “ possible that I discover my old ac-
 “ quaintance the Abbé De —— in this
 “ disguise ! What can have possibly oc-
 “ casioned so strange a metamorphose ?”
 “ Many, indeed, (said the stranger)
 “ have been the various metamorphoses
 “ which I have undergone, but I hope
 “ that they will now end like a modern
 “ comedy in marriage.” Well, (said
 the Baron) it would, I think, be ex-
 tremely unjust that you and this lady
 should pursue your journey on foot,
 when my chaise was the occasion of your
 being overturned—I beg, therefore, that
 we may endeavour to make mine hold us
 all, and I shall then expect as you have

raised my curiosity, that you will gratify it most amply, by informing me, “ Whether your present is your real character, or a disguise to conceal a tender elopement with this lady; and likewise what are the numberless metamorphoses that you allude to?” They both joined in accepting the Baron’s proposal, and after returning him thanks, got into the chaise, which no sooner began to move, than Monsieur D’Urbain reminded his new acquaintance of the promised recital, which he instantly began in the following manner :

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCXXXIX.

“**I** Cannot say that, strictly speaking,
 I have any cause to boast of an illustrious birth, although I have great reason to suppose that I have, in fact, had just as many great grandfathers and grandmothers as other people, if I did but know whom they were; but as that is an entire mystery to me, I shall candidly acknowledge all I know of the matter, which is,—that my mother was cook in the family of a beneficed son of the church, but how I came to make my appearance in this world remains yet to be accounted for; but it was certainly an extraordinary as well as unwished for event, as the husband of my mother was
 a poor

a poor labouring man, who lived in a very distant province, and who had not seen my amiable parent for many years, yet of so tractable and gentle disposition was he, that he no sooner heard that heaven had so unexpectedly blessed him with a son, than he generously consented to own me, and permitted me to be registered by his name. This sweetness of temper and christian-like virtue, of thus hiding the faults and frailties of his neighbour, were rewarded even in this life, for no sooner had he declared by letter to the master of my mother, his having taken a resolution to act by her so generously, than from a state of extreme poverty, to the surprise of the whole neighbourhood, he became comfortably settled, and enabled to live in a decent kind of credit.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCXL.

"**M**Y mother's master was so kind to her, that he suffered her to lie-in at his own house, permitted her to nurse me herself, paid for my schooling till I was twelve years of age, and then enquired for a master to take me as an apprentice; but as both my mother and her master wished to get rid of me as cheaply as possible, they made up so lamentable a story of the misfortunes of my father, whom they averred had been dead some years, without leaving me a single farthing, that my distressed situation pleaded so forcibly for me with an engraver in the neighbourhood, that he agreed to take me, and teach me his business.

business without any premium at all—one part of this agreement he strictly fulfilled, which was to take me—but the other (which was to learn me his trade) he entirely forgot, and endeavoured to make himself amends for my board and lodging by the numberless services he exacted from me : In consequence of this I did more than half the work of the house, and was sent on so many messages, that any one would have supposed the employment I was intended for, was that of a running footman. I lived with him three years, and he kept me so hungry the whole time, that I was often forced to employ the whole of my cunning to procure myself victuals—became an adept in the cheating science—and was as complete a rogue as my years would admit of; and to give you a proof of it, I had nightly watched a woman, who sold
fruit

fruit opposite our windows, and who used to count over her money every evening, and was for a long time together sitting over it, making those calculations which her extreme ignorance rendered very tedious; I coveted some pieces of it most extremely, and resolved to get them, if possible, into my possession—I lay awake many nights, contriving how to obtain them, but at last hit on the following expedient I rubbed the bottom of a plate with a very strong glue, and taking it in both hands, I ran into the shop, and set it down suddenly on the heap of cash, desired her to make haste to serve me immediately with what I wanted; in consequence of this manœuvre, two or three of the pieces stuck to the bottom of the plate, and I brought them off undiscovered, greatly rejoiced at the success of this stratagem.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCXLI.

“**I** Pursued this scheme for a long time with success, till at last the old lady having frequently missed money in a very unaccountable manner, became more attentive, and one evening fortune proved so very unfavourable to me, that a piece of twelve sous dropped from the bottom, and discovered the whole of my contrivance: the fruiterer laid hold on me immediately, and cried thieves, with all her might; the neighbours soon assembled, and the curiosity of the engraver, brought him with the rest, who not chusing to keep an apprentice of similar abilities, sent to my mother, and then turned me out of doors. My mother and her master not contented with correcting me very severely, presented

sent a petition to the magistrates that I might be confined in the Bicêtre, never considering that the society to be met with in a prison must render a mind, naturally inclined to evil, still more vicious ; but they never thought of the consequences arising to me, since the end of getting rid of me was thus completely answered. I was accordingly sent thither immediately, and no sooner did I arrive, than I revolved in my mind day and night the most possible way to make my escape, and at last concluded that I should not be able to accomplish it by any other means than pretending illness, for I had heard that those persons who were sick in the Bicêtre, were sent to the hotel Dieu, from whence I concluded it would be much easier to get away than from the place where I was ; I therefore in a few weeks time feigned a disorder

order in my chest, and opppression on my lungs ; and as I complained very much, the visiting physician did not give himself the trouble to investigate my disorder, but had the complaisance to declare it to be of a very serious nature.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCXLH.

“**A**Ccordingly one morning I was put into a cart with some fellow prisoners (who might, perhaps, be as great hypocrites as myself) and conveyed to the hotel Dieu, where we were put fix into a bed; for some days I pretended to be too ill to rise, 'till several of my companions by turns having died by my side, I thought sleeping with the dead fater an uncomfortable thing, and therefore affected to get better, and was soon after permitted to get up, and in a day or two to go down and walk in a large hall, equipped in the dress of the house, which was a long coarse flannel gown, and a night cap of the same elegant materials. For several days I walked here for

many

many hours, watching a favourable opportunity to make off, but at last one evening, when it was nearly dark, and only two or three persons in the hall, who were busily employed at the further end of it, I stole out at the door, and fortunately passing through several rooms undiscovered, got safely into the street, and ran straight forward as fast as my feet could carry me.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCXLIII.

“NIGHT came on, and I had not the least reason to hope that I should find an asylum from my pursuers, in case they should think it worth their while to follow me; neither had I one single farthing in the world, nor even clothes to my back, except my miserable flannel dress, which served only more strongly to mark me for observation, and rendered me more likely to be discovered. I ran for an hour or more, terrified at the least noise, and trembling at the sight of every one I met; at last, I took shelter in the court yard of a magnificent hotel, where I no sooner got in, than I was surrounded by the inferior servants, who, from the singularity of my dress mistook
me

me for a madman : happily for me, the master of the house hearing a great noise, enquired into the cause of it, and ordered me to be brought before him; when I beheld him, the benovelence of his aspect and mildness of his interrogatories inspired me with confidence, I therefore threw myself at his feet, and told him the truth of my story—he was moved by my distressed situation, and on my sincere sorrow for the past, and promise of better behaviour in future, he clothed me, and kept me a week in his house, and from thence sent me to school to learn latin, and assured me at the same time, that if I continued to behave well, he would provide for me in the church. I was pleased with the novelty of my situation, and having a good capacity, soon made great progress in my new plan of education.

F O L L Y CCXLIV.

“ **I**N a year’s time I was able to express myself in latin like a little Cicero, and my protector had every reason to be pleased with my behaviour in regard to him; but, being of an artful, mischievous disposition, my fellow students sometimes suffered from the tricks I played them; even the masters under whose tuition I was placed, were not exempt entirely from its effects: (for instance) it is in some parishes a rule, at the end of lent to go from house to house to make a collection for the lent preacher—I therefore hired a proper habit and surplice, and went round to every door, soliciting the charity of well dispos-

ed christians, in behalf of their pastor; and as rhetoric was my talent, I persuaded most of them to give something, and by this means made a very ample collection, which supplied my extravagancies a long time. But the best of the story is, that when the real vicar went round afterwards to require their donations, he was looked upon as an impostor; and his embarrassment at this accusation, they conceived a full proof of his guilt.

F O L L Y CCXLV.

“**T**IME, however, brought his innocence to light, when some very wise and religious persons who were extremely vexed to have been thus sacrilegiously (as they termed it) cheated out of their donations, could not but suspect that the first collector was a cheat, and began to talk loudly of their suspicious, till at last it came to the ears of the person from whom I borrowed my dress, and who was so enraged against me for having thus drawn him in as an accomplice in my guilt, and so afraid of being suspected of sharing in the advantage of my crime, that he related the fact to

all who would listen to it, and I was soon discovered, and expected to be rewarded for my ingenuity in the most ample, if not the most agreeable manner.— Affured of the dangerous predicament in which I stood, and it not being in my power to fly, (since the money thus acquired had been spent soon after it was obtained,) I one morning threw myself at the feet of my benefactor, and declared in the most pathetic terms, that, “I
 “ was so extremely shocked at the errors
 “ of my youth, and the numberless
 “ crimes I had committed, that, in order
 “ to expiate my sins, I had come to a
 “ resolution to quit the world, and to
 “ retire into the monastery of La Trappe.” My patron had the goodness to credit my hypocritical vows of repentance and amendment, but did not dare to oppose a determination which he looked upon as

an inspiration from heaven, and therefore shed tears of joy over the future saint, (not without a selfish hope, perhaps, that some of my works of superogation might mitigate a few of his own offences, from the consideration, that it was his charitable assistance had thus brought me into the way of piety and truth). He gave me his blessing very devoutly at my departure; and what was still more beneficial to a traveller, a purse with a few louis to bear the expences of my journey to my retreat; and I then set out, not to La Trappe indeed, but to a place much more consonant to my ideas, which was to an Inn at Nanterre, where I took half a dozen companions with me, and there lived very merrily till all our money was exhausted.

F O L L Y CCXLVI.

“MY purse was no sooner empty than we were obliged from necessity to return to Paris, and on my way thither I composed a long story, sufficient to inspire my benevolent protector with compassion of “my having
 “been robbed in my way to La Trappe,
 “and the dreadful miseries I had endured on my way back to Paris”; but my studied eloquence was vain, and all the pains I had taken to give it an air of probability, thrown away, as I found his door absolutely shut against me, and a message left with the porter
 “not to be seen there any more, if I
 “valued my personal safety.” From this I was convinced that he was well informed

informed of the truth of my expedition, and did not dare to make any further application. Thus deprived of my only friend, without the least resource, I thought it high time to consider how I should find means to preserve my miserable existence; and being both tall and strong for my age, I resolved to enlist into the army, and soon after became a soldier in a regiment then in garrison at Rochelle, where I arrived safely in company with the rest of the recruits: here I formed an intimacy with a young man, who shared my bed, and who did me a thousand little services, which I endeavoured to return on my part by all the means in my power, and we soon became inseparable companions. Two or three months after we came to Rochelle, my friend received an hundred louis from his father, (nearly all

he was worth in the world, and what he could very ill spare,) in order to purchase his discharge. Our colonel being absent, and the young soldier much afraid of losing a sum of this consequence, requested me to keep it for him a few days, as he had not a trunk that would lock. Almost as soon as he had entrusted it to me, I formed a plan to keep possession of it; in pursuance of this I slipped out unperceived, and buried the money in a very private place amidst some bushes, which I took care to mark in such a manner that I could infallibly know it again, and then returned to my companions, who, far from suspecting the matter, asked me to go and drink, which I gladly complied with: we drank a good deal, and though I was in fact perfectly sober, pretended to be the soonest intoxicated, and

and they being nearly more than half drunk, we none of us returned to quarters, but lay down on a bench which was in the room. When we had lain and slept several hours, I no sooner awoke than I put my hand into my pocket, and declared to my astonished comrade (with a look of inconceivable horror, and all the gestures of a madman) "that I had lost the hundred louis whilst I slept." I pretended to look every where about the room, but when all search was declared to be vain, I appeared to become almost frantic with despair, and at last cried out, "Thieves," as loud as I could, whilst the oaths and threats of the young soldier augmented the noise to such a degree, that several of our officers ran into the room to enquire what was the matter, and hearing the whole story began

to examine me very accurately, and finding me prevaricate in my evidence, suspected a cheat, and instantly sent me to the dungeon—I was tried by a court-martial the next day, and though I still persisted in my declarations of innocence to the last, yet appearances were so strong against me, that I was deemed unworthy any longer to serve the king, and sentenced to first run the gauntlet, and afterwards to be drummed out of the regiment, and never more allowed to carry arms : the latter part of the sentence in my opinion fully compensated for the former, as I by this means procured my discharge without paying for it.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCXLVII.

“**A**FTER this ceremony was over, and I had been hissed out, I hid myself near the town till night, and then, though my shoulders were very sore, made a shift to get to the place where the louis were concealed, and as soon as I had them in my possession, thought myself, in spite of my disgrace, a very fortunate fellow, and set out immediately for a very distant province, where I took a lodging, made a few acquaintances, and behaved so well to those, that I was soon well received in several creditable families, and insinuated myself so much into their esteem, that they introduced me to the governor, who believing me to be really a gentleman

of fortune, permitted me to purchase a lieutenancy, which I paid for with the best part of the hundred louis, and thought it well bestowed, since I had not any objection to the military life as an officer, though I abhorred that of a common soldier. I now entered deeply into the science of play, and acquired a method of cutting, dealing, and shuffling the cards, which if not much to my honour, was at least greatly to my advantage, by which means I was so successful that I dressed with taste, gave elegant entertainments, and lived very expensively for some time: but unfortunately for me, a deserter was one day taken by my company, who had deserted from that corps a twelvemonth before, and had enlisted into that which I had lately left so dishonourably at Rochelle. When this man was tried, I
 was

was on the court-martial, and appointed after his conviction to read to him the sentence of death ; I had not the smallest recollection of his person, but unluckily for me, his memory was not so erroneous, for he fixed his eyes on me stedfastly, and with a deep sigh, “ I have, gentlemen, (said he, addressing himself to the court) deserved the death I am doomed to suffer, and committed many actions which I sincerely repent, but most particularly do I accuse myself of having shewn mercy to the shoulders of that wretch, (pointing to me) when he ran the gauntlet through the regiment now at Rochelle, for having stolen an hundred louis from his comrade.”

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCXLVIII.

“**T**HIS accusation created a general surprize and consternation, and my confusion giving great cause to believe it to be fact, my superior officers ordered me to be put instantly under an arrest, and conducted to prison. The governor enraged at having been thus deceived, was inveterate against me, and the next day I was conducted to the head of my company, who were drawn up under arms, when an officer took off my sword, and having broke it asunder, he disdainfully threw me the sum I had paid for my commission, and I quitted the town amidst the hisses of the foldiers, and acclamations of the populace.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y CCXLIX.

“ I Went directly to Paris, and when arrived there had still the assurance to wear my uniform, on pretence of being an officer, whose curiosity had brought him to the metropolis; this fable met with universal belief, or at least no one gave themselves the trouble to contradict it, which answered my purpose just as well; and as I pursued all manner of pleasure without the least reserve, I was again reduced to the utmost distress; for here my adroit management of the cards would no longer be of service to me, since there were at Paris many persons who understood that science much better than myself. I was soon forced to have recourse to the

the meanest and most despicable artifices to obtain a precarious livelihood. One evening at the French comedy, I stood in the parterre, next to an honest, plain-looking man, who frequently drew from his pocket a most tempting gold snuff box, on which I cast a longing eye every time he exhibited this piece of finery, which by no means corresponded with the other parts of his dress: when the performance was nearly over, and every one attentive to the catastrophe, I ventured to slip it (as I thought unperceived) out of his pocket into mine, but fate so ordained that he missed it almost the very moment after, and very justly suspected his next neighbour; but unwilling to cause confusion in the house, and, perhaps, not wishing me to undergo the punishment I so richly deserved, he took me by the arm, and said to me
in

in a whisper, " My friend, you have
" taken my snuff-box out of my pocket
" —return it to me instantly, or I will
" immediately deliver you up to the
" guard." It was in vain for me to
pretend to any evasion, since he would
doubtless have searched my pockets di-
rectly ; I therefore stood pale and trem-
bling, but at length assuming some de-
gree of courage from the humanity ap-
parent in his countenance : " It is too
" true, sir, (said I) with shame I ac-
" knowledge my crime, but as it is the
" first I have been guilty of, do not,
" I beseech you, expose an unhappy
" young man, but content yourself with
" drawing it privately from my pocket,
" and I will stand in such a manner
" as to give you an opportunity to
" take it unperceived." The poor,
foolish fellow swallowed the bait, and
agreed

agreed to this proposition, but no sooner did I feel his hand entirely in my pocket, than I laid hold of it, and called out for the guard with the greatest vociferation; in vain did he relate the truth of the fact, and loudly protest his innocence, many persons had seen his hand, whilst I by force held it in my pocket; he therefore met with neither pity or belief from the spectators, and he was by them consigned to the custody of the guard, and most probably taken to a dungeon, whilst I, during the confusion, made off with my booty, which I instantly sold for a considerable sum, and went that very night through the province of Languedoc for Montpellier.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCL.

“ I Had been but a very short time at Montpellier, when I became acquainted with a person who was in the office of tax-gatherer there; and as I found he would not only be an useful, but lucrative friend, I applied myself closely to study his disposition. I first gained his confidence by writing sentimental *billet-doux* to a lady with whom he was honourably in love; and by being serviceable to him in some other amours, which were pretty numerous, and not quite so sentimental, in short, so far ingratiated myself into his esteem, that he made me his clerk, and appointed me receiver under him; when finding me very diligent

gent and attentive to business (of which he was very careless and dilatory), pleased with having an assistant who saved him so much trouble, he put the matter entirely into my hands, and intrusted me with the whole receipt of the cash, the consequence of which was, that as soon as I had accumulated sums to as large an amount as ever could be in my hands at one time, my patron being gone on a pleasurable jaunt for six weeks, and quite secure of not being missed for some days, I set off early one fine morning with all the money in my possession.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCLI.

“ **W**HEN I had travelled for two days, the sight of a convent of monks determined me to take a secure refuge for a time under their protection; I therefore went up boldly to the gate and requested to speak with the superior, on his appearance I threw myself at his feet, and with a flood of tears, entreated him, “ to receive into his house a sinner, “ who wished to expiate his crimes by penance and repentance; and after having in some degree made an atonement “ for his offences, might be admitted to “ take the holy habit of their society.” The good man moved by my tears and entreaties (and likewise prompted to com-

compassion by a few louis which I privately put into his hand) received me with cordial affection—took me into the house, and invested me with the habit of a novice, which being as far in the profession as I ever intended to go, I took an opportunity a few weeks after, when I concluded the heat of the pursuit was over, to decamp from the convent, perfectly secure, that the clerk to a cashier would not be easily discovered under the frock and cowl of a monk.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCLII.

“**I** Took the precaution, however, to proceed on my travels through by-ways and unfrequented roads, lest the monks should take it in their head to follow me, and oblige me to return the vile dress, the value of which, my louis had paid ten times over. I now returned once more to Paris, but took care to take lodgings in a very distant quarter from that in which I had resided before; I then changed my greasy monk’s frock for the cloke of an elegant Abbé, and being thus metamorphosed into a clerical *petit maitre*, with perfumed hair, refined conversation, and affected airs, I gained

gained the admiration of the ladies; and as I had plenty of money, soon found friends who introduced me into several respectable assemblies in private houses, where I made acquaintance with fashionable women, and was so much in vogue, that I frequently went to court, where I had the honour of your notice, Monsieur, (said the adventurer bowing to the Baron) though you little imagined what a variable being I then was, and had been.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCLIII.

“ALL this while, though my time
 past very pleasantly, yet I had
 the mortification to find my cash decrease
 very fast, and began to think that it
 would be most prudent to endeavour to
 get my friends to procure me a future
 subsistence; knowing, that such is the
 nature of mankind, that they would be
 infinitely more active in my service, whilst
 they had not the least reason to suppose
 that I was in real want of their assistance :
 for it is a melancholy truth, that it is
 much easier for a rich man to get a con-
 siderable addition to a large income, than
 for a very poor man to get him sufficien-
 cy to buy him bread. My success vere-

fied my idea, and I was soon after introduced to a person high in the church, as a rich young Abbé, who wished preferment, more for the name of the thing than pecuniary motives ; for which reason I was soon made a canon with twelve hundred livres a year, without taking priest's orders, but was to reside at one of the principal towns in Burgundy. Delighted with my good fortune, (though I disguised my real sentiments with an air of the most consummate indifference) I thanked my patron in a careless manner, and soon after set out to take possession of my benefice, transported with joy.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCLIV.

“ **T**HUS I became a canon (though not one of the most respectable); but instead of attending to the duties of my office, I thought only of indulging myself in every kind of luxury: my table was covered daily with delicacy and profusion, and my cellars well stored with the choicest and most expensive wines; besides which, I had a young, handsome house-keeper of two and twenty. Thus situated, you will easily suppose that I did not make a point of attending constantly at the choir; but to prevent a complaint of such omissions from arising among the brotherhood, I regaled them frequently with the most delicious

P 2

fare;

fare; and, as they invited me in return, our whole life was spent in one continued round of festivity. I visited likewise amongst my female neighbours, and fell deeply in love with a lady, at whose house I spent most of my evenings, and whose husband was my friend. Finding she received me with some degree of partiality, I ventured to declare my passion, which she received without resentment, and in such a manner, that I had every reason to believe I had made an impression on her heart.

F O L L Y CCLV.

“**T**HE lady seemed even to look upon me with a more favourable eye, after the confession of my love and admiration of her personal charms: encouraged by such behaviour, I grew bolder and earnestly pressed her to grant me an assignation—she blushed—hesitated, but made no other objection than the difficulty of evading the watchful jealousy of her husband, who was (and, I presume, not without cause) extremely suspicious of her conduct: but chance was, however, soon after so favourable to our wishes, that he was obliged to go a journey to settle some affairs in a distant province. The fair one gave me this information in

a note, and desired me to be with her at midnight: this I punctually complied with, you need not doubt; but scarcely had we sat down to a little elegant collation she had provided, and drawn the cork of a bottle of excellent champagne, before a loud knocking at the street door alarmed us exceedingly, and soon after we heard a voice demand admittance in so authoritative a tone, that we were convinced it could be that of no other person than the master of the house, who was so unexpectedly returned, very much unwished for by us—but extremely *apropos* for the honour of his own family.

F O L L Y CCLVI.

“**T**HUS situated, it would certainly have been most prudent to have endeavoured to secret myself in some closet or place from whence I might have escaped undiscovered when all was quiet, but my evil genius tempted me rather to risque sliding down by a sheet from a window into the back street, though I had the height of two stories to descend. The lady in vain endeavoured to dissuade me from so dangerous an enterprize, but I refused to listen to her remonstrances; and terrified almost to death, lest I should be discovered, I eagerly caught hold of the corner of a sheet, which I prevailed on my mistress to hold with the assistance

of her chamber maid, and down I went ; but unfortunately the sheet being too short, I found myself soon in a very dangerous situation, being obliged to jump the remainder of the height without even knowing how far I had to leap, and thus ran the risque either of killing myself on the spot, or at least breaking some of my bones ; but in endeavouring to jump down, I met with a diabolical large hook in my way, which projecting half a foot from the wall, caught hold of a certain part of my dress very near the hips, and the sudden jerk reversed my whole body, turned me quite round, and though it held me very fast, yet I remained in a most disagreeable situation with my head downward, like the tomb of Mahomet, suspended between heaven and earth, and full twelve feet from the ground.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCLVII.

“ **T**HIS might, perhaps, come under the denomination of a very fortunate escape, and many persons would have thought themselves greatly indebted to the hook on which I bestowed a thousand imprecations whilst I struggled to get loose, though at the risque of breaking my neck: to add to my misfortune, the house of my mistress was situated in one of the most frequented parts of the town, and this back street led to a public market, by which means, as soon as the sun was risen, I was exposed to the jests and laughter of the populace, who were at once both entertained and surprized to see me in such a situation, like a

bat nailed against a wall, with my head downwards. My ecclesiastical habit increased the mirth of the spectators, and when I addressed myself to them in the most humble manner, beseeching them "to assist me to get down," their acclamations redoubled on hearing my voice, as if they were surprised to find me a human being. This uproar drew the husband to the window, who instantly guessing the truth of the adventure, sent to a magistrate, who gave orders to his myrmidons to come and take me down, and bring me before him, where I was obliged to submit to undergo a very severe examination; but, happily for me, my brethren of the church took cognizance of the affair, and either in consideration of the many good dinners I had given them, or the fear of having disgrace brought upon their order by my undergoing

undergoing a public punishment, they prevailed on the magistrate to deliver me into their hands, and having privately punished me very severely, excluded me from receiving any further benefit from the church, as unworthy to perform any of the sacred functions.

F O L L Y CCLVIII.

“**H**AVING thus entirely lost my church preferment, I once more took shelter in Paris; and when I had been there some weeks I formed a resolution to become advocate, in which (having more than a tolerable assurance) I flattered myself I should certainly succeed, though I was unacquainted with any part of the law, except a few of the technical terms, and that part of it which had served to punish me for my misdemeanours. By the help of a friend, assisted by a stratagem (which it would be tedious and unentertaining to repeat), I obtained a licence, and as I was blessed with great volubility of tongue, it induced many persons to believe that I really understood what I professed; and
however

however absurd it may appear, I certainly gained a great number of clients. When I had been in this situation for about a twelvemonth, a widow applied to recover an estate, which had been left to her by her husband, but whose right of devising it was disputed by his heirs. I thought this matter worthy of all my attention, and stated the affair to some of the most eminent council, and finding them unanimous in their opinion of the justice of the claim, and knowing her too poor to carry on the cause, I determined to make my fortune at once, and candidly told her I would undertake the cause, without putting her to any expence whatever, provided she would enter into an agreement to marry me, if it were decided in her favour; she agreed to this proposal, which I took care to have drawn up by a notary in the form of

of a contract, and properly witnessed, and in six month's time I gained an estate of ten thousand livres a year, with an excellent house upon it, and at the same time a wife, of whose personal perfections you may judge, as this is the lady herself with whom I am now going for a month to Paris on a visit to a friend: thus you see, though Pythagoras adopted the belief of the transmigration of souls through various bodies only after death, yet my system is more extensive, for I have proved to you most indisputably, that my present state of existence has been liable to as many metamorphoses here, having been changed from an engraver to an abbé—a soldier—a monk—an officer—a cashier—a canon—an advocate; and what is the greatest and most extraordinary revolution of all, from an advocate I am become an honest man."

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCLIX.

THE companion of the Baron finished his history just as the chaise entered the gates of Paris, and Mons. D'Urbain had the politeness to offer to set them down at the house of the friend to whom they were going; but the gentleman declaring he had some business to transact before he went thither, the Baron contented himself with leaving them in one of the principal streets, and had not long parted with his communicative fellow-traveller, before he perceived that, in spite of all professions of honesty and amendment, he had found means to take away with him both a very elegant English repeater out of his fob, and a purse of fifty louis from his pocket. The Baron was extremely enraged, and never once considered that the person who had thus deceived him, had

had set out with acknowledging himself to be a rogue, and that the continuation of his history had proved him such a consummate deceiver, that not any credit ought to have been given to his protestations; he hastened, therefore, to the hotel of Madame D'Illouis so very angry that, as he neither knew the name of the thief, or his estate, which he had carefully avoided the mention of (during the whole of his narration) he determined to give an accurate description of his person, and a large reward for apprehending him; but finding, when he arrived at the Marchioness's hotel, that she was gone to the masquerade, he threw over him a black domino, and hastened after her, without thinking any more of his watch and purse, or the arch deceiver who had cheated him of both.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCLX.

IN the mean time Monsieur D'Illôis continued to support his favourite Julia at a considerable expence; he bestowed on her jewels fit for a duchess, and her liveries, coach, and hotel, were infinitely superior to those which had been given her by the financier. But the Marquis, unfortunately not having any share in the finance, his fortune could not afford him this variety of luxury and extravagance, without being greatly deranged, and at some times even distressed for money to pursue his amusements: nevertheless, he continued the pursuit of pleasure with the same eagerness, although, to gratify it, his steward sold farms, mortgaged estates, and bought annuities daily for the purpose of supplying him with cash; and it would have been impossible for him to have

have gained longer credit had he not been a man of distinction. Proud of having the name of a person of quality in their books, they charged their own price, and waited with tolerable patience the payment of their bills: it is true, that his anti-chamber was generally full of creditors every morning, but a bow to one—a smile to the second—and an enquiry after the family of the third, were such a charm to plebeians, that it frequently hushed the intended demand, and often obliged them to retire without uttering a syllable to so polite and well-bred a debtor; although the same tradesmen, had the debt been due from one of their own rank, would have been deaf to the tears and intreaties of a wife and helpless family, and perhaps have refused to wait till honest industry could have accumulated the sum that was to satisfy their impatience.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y CCLXI.

THE Steward of the Marquis D'Illois being a man of strict honesty, and one whose *great regard* for the family rendered him extremely dissatisfied with the fashionable situation of the affairs of his master, used to take the liberty of remonstrating with him on his conduct; and not content with fatiguing him with his advice, grew more exact than ever in his accompts, and in order to prove how faithfully he discharged his trust, he brought him daily so many bills to look over, and papers to examine, that Monsieur D'Illois could spare no more time for, than to look on the sum total of his expences, and sign the acquittal;

quittal; but finding that this method, short as it was, became very troublesome, he commanded him for the future to lay aside even this appearance of business, but to take care to procure him the sums he drew for, on the best terms he could procure it, and for that purpose gave him a legal power of selling, mortgaging, &c. any part of his estate. By this *happy regulation*, the Marquis was exempt from business, and the steward *probably found it worth his while* to indulge him in this state of tranquility.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCLXII.

THE Marchioness D'Illois was at this time as strongly attached to her German lover, Duke de Wilcan, as she had a short time before been to the Provincial; and it was more likely to be a lasting passion, since they mixed in every fashionable amusement, joined in every scene of dissipation, and were never long enough alone to become tired of each other. The Duke was particularly fond of play, and the Marchioness at first pursued it in compliance to his inclination, but at last it became so habitual that she was unable to live without it, and spent whole days, and even nights, at whist and pharoan, with all the anxiety of a professed gamester, which occasioned so entire a change both in her person and disposition, that she became almost
a different

a different being : she was no longer that bewitching charmer, whose vivacity gave life to the circle of her friends—whose follies were adorned with such good humour and sprightliness, that they were excused by the gay, and met with indulgence from the wise—she became capricious and ill-tempered, and was never seen to smile but when she was the favourite of fortune—her eyes, which once beamed health and pleasure, were become dull, heavy, and languid for want of sleep—her dazzling complexion faded by late hours, and she bore the appearance of that most detestable of all characters, a female rake—the loves and graces no longer hovered round her, but afrighted at the change, forsook their abode, and left her heart a prey to the demon of avarice.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCLXIII.

THE Marchioness played one evening so very unsuccessfully, that she lost first two hundred louis which she had in her purse, and four hundred more upon honour, which, unfortunately was to an old man, a gamester by profession; had it been to a young one, an easy method of payment might have been proposed, to which a remarkable bad run of cards had now and then induced Madame D'Illois to accede, (though we will suppose contrary to her inclination).

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCLXIV.

THE Money was to be paid the very next morning, and the day following the Marchioness was to hold the pharoan bank at her own house; she could therefore think on no other expedient than to pawn her jewels with an *honest jew*, who was so kind as to let her have on them half what they were worth, with this proviso, that they were to be forfeited if not redeemed in eight day's time, which condition the Marchioness complied with chearfully, convinced that she should the very next evening win much more than sufficient to take up her diamonds.

F O L L Y CCLXV.

Fortune was, however, so very unkind to Madame D'Illois, that the next evening she lost the whole sum she had so dearly purchased of the jew; and her jewels (as she had not the least probability of paying the money at the expiration of the time) must of course become the property of the ill-favoured descendant of Abraham and Moses. It might be supposed that the idea of parting with her jewels, would have been sufficient to have reduced to despair a woman animated by the spirit of coquetry, and fond of dress to the most extravagant degree; but her passion for

play had so absorbed every other, that she bore her loss with the temper of a philosopher, and seemed only to regret that it was no longer in her power to appear at the card table, which was absolutely impossible till she had replenished her purse : and to whom could she apply for this purpose?—not to her husband, for she was certain she should be refused—and as to her lover, Duke de Wilcan, he had been the partner in her misfortune, and was to the full as much distressed as herself. At last on a hint from Mademoiselle, her *suivante*, (who was her confidante, and had a lucrative view in the advice she gave her lady) she was prevailed upon to make application to a financier, whose name was Mondor, a man of immense wealth, and who had shewn his designs on her so evidently soon after she was married, (that being

then,

then, at least more delicate, if not more prudent) his frightful person, and more disagreeable behaviour, made her treat him with such evident marks of contempt, that he forbore his visits; however, she now condescended to see him immediately, and repented that she had not taken this method before her application to the jew, as she was certain every compliance with the wishes of the financier would be rewarded with the most unbounded liberality.

F O L L Y CCLXVI.

MONDOR was a single man of fifty-five, the boundaries of whose understanding were exactly the four first rules in arithmetic; and the two which he chiefly made use of, were, addition to his own fortune by subtraction from that of other people: it might be said of him, with the greatest propriety, that he was, indeed, fond of a *figurative* mode of expression, since he could talk rationally on no other subject than that of figures. He was above six feet in height, long, lean, and bony, with a pair of large unmeaning grey eyes, which wandered from object to object, without one single ray of expression to indicate a latent

a latent idea ; he had a short nose, and a wide mouth, which seemed ever opening to speak, but still remained half shut, as conscious of having nothing but absurdities to utter, whilst a loud foolish laugh announced to his unfortunate auditors they must prepare to hear something very ridiculous : but in spite of his low education, and many vulgar peculiarities, Mondor was well received in the houses of persons of the first fashion, some of whom had more reasons for soliciting the honour of his acquaintance, than the mere pleasure his society afforded them.

F O L L Y CCLXVII.

ON the receipt of the billet from the Marchioness, Mondor dressed himself as richly as possible, and waited on her at the appointed hour with infinite delight; for, as she had hinted she had a request to make, such was his idea of conferring a favour, that he conceived that it implied such a kind of subordination in the person who received it, that they ought ever after to be at the disposal of those who had bestowed it on them; from this generous mode of thinking, he easily guessed the intention of Madame D'Illois, and determined to make a sure bargain for himself.

F O L L Y CCLXVIII.

IN this frame of mind he entered the apartment of the Marchioness, who was dressed in the most elegant dishabille, with every advantage art could bestow, fully resolved that night to fascinate his heart, and obtain the freedom of his strong box. She was netting, and half reclined on a sofa, and on his entrance made him the most obliging reproaches “for having been so long without seeing her,” to which he stuttered some apologies so ungracefully, that the Marchioness would have laughed at him if she had but had any money in her pocket, but as it was, she contented herself with putting an end to them, by fixing her

Q 4

eyes

eyes on her pocket glass. " Mondor,
 " (said she) don't I look horribly to-day ?
 " —I am so out of humour with myself
 " that I am quite ugly—were you not a
 " peculiar favourite, I would not have
 " admitted you when I am so low spirit-
 " ed and so frightful—but do you know,
 " Mondor, that I am the most unfortu-
 " nate creature in the world—I am
 " ruined, absolutely ruined.—It is hard
 " to the greatest degree, that a woman
 " like me, who has ever wished to be-
 " have with the utmost propriety, should
 " be ruined by play—and by no means
 " through any imprudence, for I hate
 " play—but one must do something to
 " amuse, and what can be more inno-
 " cent than whist or pharoan?—I flat-
 " ter myself, Mondor, that you will be
 " my friend on this occasion, and lend
 " me the sum I want at present, to pre-
 " vent

" vent my shutting myself up in my
 " own house, and to enable me to try
 " my fortune at the Duchefs De ***'s
 " assembly—You used, Mondor, to pro-
 " fess yourself willing to oblige me, I
 " therefore make this request, (relying
 " on your secrecy,) and am sure you
 " cannot doubt but I shall make a
 " point of returning it to you in a few
 " day's time, with ten thousand thanks."

F O L L Y CCLXIX.

“ I Am very much obliged to you,
 “ madam, (returned the ungraceful
 “ Mondor) but I am not to learn at
 “ this time what it is to lend money to
 “ ladies, and that I should hereafter be
 “ esteemed a very ungenerous creditor,
 “ were I ever in future to hint the
 “ smallest hope of having mine again ;
 “ I shall, therefore, make you a fair
 “ offer, without ceremony, as I suspect
 “ we understand each other—resolve,
 “ therefore, to submit to the laws I
 “ shall prescribe in your behaviour to
 “ me, and I will submit my strong box
 “ to your disposal, without expecting
 “ ever to be reimbursed any sums you
 “ have occasion for; and if you should
 “ at

" at any future time choose to refund
 " the whole, or any part, I shall think
 " the favours you have bestowed on me
 " a sufficient compensation, and not
 " charge you a single farthing for inter-
 " rest on sums so borrowed—but you
 " frown, and appear displeased with a
 " proposition so evidently to your own
 " advantage—however, if you do not
 " think so, I have no more to say, and
 " am, your very humble servant." At
 the end of this cavalier speech, Mondor
 rose from his chair, and was preparing to
 leave the room.

F O L L Y CCLXX.

THOUGH the Marchioness felt very forcibly the indignity to which she had subjected herself, from a man she most heartily despised, yet so desperate was her situation, that she was obliged to dissemble her indignation, and request him to be seated. “ You are most certainly (said she, affecting to blush, and covering her face with her fan) the most unaccountable man in the world, for I really do not comprehend you in the least—let me, therefore, hear what it is you demand for the price of this service and loan of your money, for you speak in so ambiguous a manner that I cannot even
“ guess.”

"guess." "Not guess! (exclaimed
 "Mondor) Can you suppose I mean
 "any thing less than the possession of
 "your person?" "How can you possi-
 "bly (returned the Marchioness) make
 "so ridiculous a proposition with so
 "little ceremony to a woman of my
 "rank; but those who mean to serve us
 "are to be allowed a few liberties
 "of expression. Lend me the money,
 "Mondor, you shall visit me as often
 "as you please, time and assiduity joined
 "to your attentions may make an im-
 "pression in your favour, and induce
 "me to reward you for your passion."
 "These fine promises will not satisfy me
 "(said the financier); I am used to
 "make love but one way, which is this
 "—that I shall either send you two
 "thousand louis for value received, or
 "else, I am your very humble ser-
 "vant,

“want, and they go to some one who
 “will accept them on my terms, and
 “I dare say it will not be long before I
 “dispose of them.” Seeing him so pe-
 remptory, Madame D’Illois thought pro-
 per to consent to this arrangement ; and
 as Mondor made a point of supplying
 her card purse very liberally, she had it
 in her power to play for immense sums,
 without sustaining any inconveniency.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCLXXI.

WAR was at this juncture declared, and the friends of Monsieur D'Illois, knowing his distressed situation, procured him the command of a regiment; and he received both his commission and orders to join the corps at the same time. As this was a scheme perfectly new, and a plan very different from any he had hitherto pursued, he accepted it with the same transport he would have done any pleasurable excursion; and made the most expensive preparation for the ornamental part of his equipage; he bespoke a magnificent tent, the furniture of which was elegant to the highest degree

degree—carried his whole side-board of plate—took an additional cook—built a new travelling carriage to contain his bed by night, with eider down cushions on the seats, sides and feet, together with numberless additional springs which prevented the least motion to disturb those slumbers which in long marches he chose to take by day—several suits of elegant regimentals were made to appear in, when he chose to dress; but his *robe de chambre* of eider down, covered with an elegant white satin, trimmed with broad silk fringe, for the cool, and the most beautiful muslins, lined with rose coloured sarsenet, decorated with Valenciene lace, for the hot weather, surpassed every thing ever seen in a camp: his nightcaps were the admiration and envy of all his fashionable acquaintance, his toilette outshone that of the first coquette in Paris, and one

chaise

chaife-marine, built on a peculiar construction, under the direction of the first perfumer in france, contained in various divisions his perfumes and marechalle powder--wash balls--cold creams--rouge pomatums--essence of tea blossoms for his lips, and chicken skin gloves, which being pack'd by the same eminent artist, might bid defiance to roads and weather, and every appendage to dress and countenance remain in the highest perfection. Thus, whilst every essential duty was utterly disregarded, did a mind, from infancy accustomed to pay the strictest attention to trifles, carry the same puerile ideas of vanity, folly and dissipation into the field of glory, death and danger.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCLXXII.

BUT a small inconveniency, which the Marquis had not foreseen, had nearly put a stop to these *warlike preparations*; the ill-bred persons of whom they were bespoken, expected to receive some sums on their former bill before they chose to execute further orders. On their making this impertinet demand, Monsieur D'Illois was obliged to recollect that he had not a sufficient sum to defray his expences, he therefore sent for the honest steward (already mentioned) and confessed to him his embarrasment, but the poor man protesting to God with the most solemn earnestness, that, “ he “ had neither a louis, or even the means left

“ left to raise one by any security what-
 “ ever,” the Marquis was obliged not
 to contest the point, least it should remind
 him of asking for the three years salary
 which was due to him ; he therefore dis-
 missed him from his presence and resolved
 for once to take the trouble to endeavour
 to procure it for himself.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCLXXIII.

HAVING been disappointed on his application to several usurers recommended to him by many of his acquaintance, who were accustomed to that method of supplying themselves, he at length found out a compassionate Jew, who taking his distress into consideration, consented to advance him ten-thousand crowns without any other security than his bond for *fifty-thousand livres*.

F O L L Y CCLXXIV.

THE Marquis accused the descendant of Moses and the patriarchs of extortion, yet accepted of the terms proposed, whilst the Jew, on his part, defended himself from the charge. “ I
 “ declare to you, my Lord, (said he) I am
 “ a mere agent in this business for a
 “ friend, who is, you must know, steward to a wild, dissipated, extravagant,
 “ young nobleman, so wholly inattentive
 “ to his own affairs, that if he does but
 “ take care to supply him with money
 “ for present expences, his lord will sign
 “ any thing, and put off all enquiry how
 “ it was obtained to a future day; the
 “ steward, like a wise man, has taken his
 advantage

“ advantage of the folly of his master,
 “ and contrived to convey almost the
 whole of his estate into his own pocket.”
 Monsieur D’Illois requested to be inform-
 ed of the name of the nobleman, that if
 he was one of his own set, he might ral-
 ly him on the occasion, as he conceived
 the joke to be a very good one; but the
 Israelite assured him, “ the name was a
 “ profound secret, even to him who
 “ transacted the matter, adding, that he
 “ should have been above mentioning a
 “ syllable of the affair, had his employer
 “ behaved to him as liberally as he ought;
 “ but that of late he was grown so very
 “ avaricious, the he seemed to think the
 “ trifle allowed him, more than his due.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCLXXV.

AS Monsieur D'Illois was going down the stairs, very well pleased with having replenished his purse by merely signing his name, he met a peasant laden with several bags, which appeared to be full of silver : the Marquis at first, took no other notice of him than by stopping on the landing place, expecting the countryman to stand aside and give him room to pass; but he, on the contrary, (like the ass in the fable, proud of the burden he carried) seemed more inclined to dispute the way than resign it; this extreme rudeness drew the attention of the Marquis, who looking in his face, instantly recognized him for the tenant of
 one

one of his principal farms. "Why,
 "Lubin, what the devil brings you here
 "to visit a jew?" cried Monsieur
 D'Illois, taking hold of his arm. "Why,
 "your honour, (returned the rustic) can-
 "not you guess, when it is six weeks
 "turned of quarter day?—I am never
 "long behind hand—so I am come for
 "your service, though I did not see it was
 "you, or you should have had the wall
 "to be sure—but as to any one else, why
 "I argues, here am I, an honest man
 "going up, who have worked hard to get
 "my money, to pay my rent—well—
 "and here is a fine chap a coming down,
 "who has spent his own and been to
 "borrow other people's--sure I am better
 "than he, and I'll never give way to
 "him—'nt I right, your honour, for I
 "know, I warrant, what trade's drove
 "in this house, when I paid rent here
 "this

" this two year—I a'nt quite a natural
 " neither." " Rent here ! (exclaimed
 " the Marquis) why my steward don't
 " live here, booby--where should you see
 " him but at my hôtel ?" " Ay, ay, but
 " it is all as one as if I was to go there
 " (said Lubin) and better too, for I pay
 " it to a civil, black-looking gentleman
 " above stairs, who not only gives me
 " your steward's receipt ready signed,
 " but a good bottle of wine into the
 " bargain."

F O L L Y CCLXXVI.

THE Marquis took the peasant to a neighbouring tavern, where he found not any difficulty to persuade him that he had an undoubted right to receive his own rent, as he not only gave him a receipt, but as much wine as he could drink, without limiting him to a bottle. Monsieur D'Illois was highly delighted that he had deprived his steward of getting a large sum of money he fancied himself secure of, and was wise enough, to be fully convinced of the absolute necessity of parting with him immediately—but habitual indolence so far got the better of him, that, unable to take the trouble of settling so
compli-

complicated an account, he contented himself with forming the resolution to dismiss him on his return from his campaign, (which he concluded would not be longer than six months); and concluded that it was better to submit to his depredations for so *short a time*, than to fatigue himself to death with business at so *important a crisis*.

F O L L Y CCLXXVII.

THE time appointed for the Marquis to join his regiment was expired, but on a proper application to some friends at Versailles, he obtained a furlow of six weeks to settle his *affairs*, (that is to say) to make his appearance at every *spectacle* in his new regimentals—take leave of his friends by making a party with each to dine and sup together in a tavern—present an expensive *bijon* to each of their mistresses, and receive some trifling trinket in return, as a *gâgé d'amitié* from women whom he never desired to see again. Having thus paid in the politest manner the *devoirs* he conceived due to society, the evening before he set out, he sent, to desire permission to take leave of the Marchioness, in her

own apartment; who (as she well knew every particular of her behaviour on so *trying* an occasion, would be the subject of public conversation) prepared to receive him with all the *etiquette* of sighs and *tears*, and paid such strict attention to propriety, that she fainted as he was preparing to quit her; for the delicacy of her feeling, and the *exquisite sensibility* of her mind, rendered her wholly unable to bear the absence of an husband for six months, whom she had not seen but in public, *during the last eleven*. The melancholy sight of her distress so affected the Marquis—that he *sighed aloud*, and *unable* to stay till she recovered, left her to the care of her women—whom he *conjured to say every thing that could possibly mitigate her sorrow*—kissed her hand—and retired to *sup and spend the night with Julia*.

F O L L Y CCLXXVIII.

THE day dawned, and the sun arose with more than usual brightness to light the gay D'Illois to the field of glory; his equipage and *retinue* came to the door (by his orders) at six exactly—but he did not rise till half past twelve—at three got into his carriage and set out for the camp; yet willing after the examples of Agamemnon and Achilles, to interweave the myrtle with the laurel, he carried his Julia along with him, whom he fixed in a neat little apartment in a village two leagues from the camp, by which means he had an opportunity to see or hear from the object of his tenderness every day.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y CCLXXIX.

WE will grant time to Monsieur D'Illois to display the brilliancy of his magnificent preparations to the astonished soldiers, and see what past at Paris (that fortunate city, where pleasures are as numerours in time of war, as in the midst of the calm delights of peace). The Marchioness recovered from her fainting at a proper time—recovered her spirits with due decorum—and as soon as it was consistent with decency, forgot the absence of her husband, and received her lovers as usual. The Duke De Wilcan was still the avowed favourite, yet

many others, in turn, had reason to boast of so important a conquest. But a fatal event had nearly put an end to a life so useful to society; for Madame D'Illois having heated herself extremely by dancing for several hours at a ball, imprudently drank a large quantity of iced lemonade, which threw her into so violent a fever, that her life was for many days despaired of, and during the few hours in the day that she retained her senses, the conviction of her danger made so strong an impression on her mind, that she never suffered her physician or confessor to leave the room, and all her moments were constantly employed either in swallowing remedies or confessing her sins. The goodness of her constitution, and the skill of the doctor, enabled her to support her disorder for one and twenty days, when the fever coming to a favourable crisis,

crisis, she was pronounced out of danger : but when on her recovery she beheld in the glass her emaciated form—her hollow eyes—her charms withered beyond the assistance of art to restore, and herself absolutely old at an age, which ought in the course of nature to be that of blooming beauty, she became inconsolable, and so extremely religious, that she determined to forego all pleasures she had hitherto so eagerly pursued—retire from the world—and live a life of exemplary devotion.

F O L L Y CCLXXX.

DURING the time of the illness of Madame D'Illois, the Baron D'Urbain became so extremely enamoured of the beauty of one of her attendants, that he scarce ever quitted her apartment; and so unwearied were his assiduities, and so constant his visits, that all Paris (ignorant of the motive which induced him to spend so much time at the hotel d'Illois) pronounced him the best of fathers.

F O L L Y CCLXXXI.

THE girl on whom he had fixed his affections, was, with all the appearance of innocence, more than a match in deceit and artifice for the old Baron ; she was the daughter of a man whose name was Morambert, who had kept a gaming table in Brussels, but was one evening run through the body by an officer who detected him cheating at play ; her mother had been an actress in her youth, and had taught her daughter every kind of stratagem, either to captivate an husband, or obtain an handsome settlement from some of the young men who frequented their house : many were the hopes she had formed, when the mis-

R 6 fortune

fortune of the father put a stop to her career for the present. Soon after that event, Madame Morambert came to Paris, and set up a millener's shop, in which the daughter assisted; but the mother dying soon after, the poor girl became chamber maid to the Marchioness, and observing the *penchant* of the Baron, played off all her artillery against him, who was so delighted with the modesty of her appearance and the insinuating humility of her behaviour, and above all, the unbounded affection she with blushes acknowledged he had inspired her with, that he obliged her to quit the service of his daughter and retire to a lodging he had provided, where he determined by every means in his power to subdue the stubborn virtue he believed she possessed—but failing in every attempt—and finding the fair one deaf to all his ardent professions, and that she

she was so enraged at his offer of a large settlement, that she resolved to retire to a convent to avoid him—he was so fully convinced of the severity of her virtue, that in spite of her generous representations, “*how greatly he degraded himself*” “*by such an alliance*, he one evening obliged her to accept a contract of marriage.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCLXXXII.

IN order to begin with propriety the plan of devotion, adopted by the Marchioness D'Illois, it became necessary to make great alteration both in her dress and manner of life; but very unfortunately for her father confessor, who would undoubtly have rejoiced greatly over a saint of his own making, the black dress of a devotee set off the charms of the Marchioness extremely and shewed the delicacy of her complexion to advantage—the long sleeve gave an additional grace to the beauty of her hand—whilst the close cap seemed to be worn to keep those tresses within proper bounds, which were too luxuriant to be confined

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confined by art; and the neat, plain, elegant satin slipper, as if to indicate that so pretty a foot could please without ornament. Add to this, that early hours had in great part restored her beauty—and recovered her *en-bon-point*; and it will then be easily conceived that she was become even more attractive than before, and as much a coquette as ever.

F O L L Y CCLXXXIII.

THE sudden conversion of the Marchioness soon became the universal topic of conversation in all polite circles—the women ridiculed her dress—the men defended it, *because it became her*—the ladies thought her perfectly right to renounce her lovers, *because they were now in hopes to engage their attention*—the men, on the contrary, declared her exceedingly wrong, *as they thought her too beautiful to wish her virtuous*; and whilst every man of taste made it a point to pervert the lovely devotee, many even of her old lovers found in her change of conduct all the charms of novelty, and returned to her with eagerness; amongst these were the volatile viscount

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De l'En-

De l'Encluse. The provincial gentleman, (whose law-suit being decided in his favour, was returned to live in Paris, so much improved by an acquaintance with the world, that he could now carry on an intrigue with all the appearance of passion, without either *affection* or *esteem*, and break off with the same *sang froid* which had before so much surprised him.) The Marchioness and he had renewed their acquaintance, and she was once more on good terms with him, with the financier Mondor, and the constant Duke de Wilcan likewise—these were all favoured by turns, with so much mystery, that—each believed himself the *only happy man*; whilst her days being devoted to exercises of devotion, and she wore such an appearance of virtue in her deportment, that the tongue of malice and envy, did not dare to pronounce her an hypocrite.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y CCLXXXIV.

THE extreme coldness, and affected reserve, with which the Marchioness was obliged publicly to treat her lovers, was very mortifying to their vanity; for though she possessed a sufficient degree of art to persuade each that he was the only favourite, yet they began to be weary of a connection which could never add to their *reputation* in affairs of gallantry; and though each would have been proud to have boasted that he held the devotee captive, yet a conquest that was ever to remain a secret, lost more than half its charms, but an unexpected *dénouement* brought at once her private conduct to light, and made Madame D'Illois appear as despicable as she deserved.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y CCLXXXV.

A Certain financier entertained one evening at supper several lovers of the Marchioness; he had by chance assembled the Duke De Wilcan, the Viscount De l'Encluse, the provincial, and the financier Mondor. After supper, amidst a variety of conversation on different subjects, such as the theatre—waistcoats—actresses—dogs—plumes—shoes—canes—horses, &c. a dispute arose, what sort of women could longest engage the affections of a lover?

F O L L Y

F O L L Y CCLXXXVI.

THE financier, at whose house they were, frankly declared, that as he never met with affection from any woman who did not expect him to pay for it, he preferred the opera girl to the Countess. "All men, however, (cried the indiscreet Viscount) are not obliged to purchase their attachments, for give me leave to tell you, that the life of an amour is mystery—for example, now, that of a devotee."—"A devotee! (exclaimed the Duke De Wilcan)." "Ay, (returned De l'Encluse) but observe, that I only mention it in confidence, when I declare upon my honour, that the loveliest woman in Paris divides her heart between me
" and

“ and heaven, and her name (said the Duke, with emotion) is, ——” “ Oh !
 “ a profound secret (answered he); suffice it to say, that the husband of my
 “ Lucretia is in the army.” “ I guess
 “ your heroine, (said de Wilcan, with a
 “ smile of contempt) come, come, own it
 “ is the Marchioness D’Illois.”—“ Well,
 “ (said the Viscount) you have guessed
 “ it right—but do me justice—I did *not*
 “ tell—but how the devil came you to
 “ think so?”

F O L L Y CCLXXXVII.

“ **B**Ecause (returned the Duke) I have
 “ the honour of sharing with you,
 “ it seems, the heart and person of that
 “ amiable lady.”

F O L L Y

F O L L Y CCLXXXVIII.

“**T**O affect discretion would be now
 “ a folly, (interrupted the pro-
 “ vincial) I have been equally deceived,
 “ for I declare that I am distinguished
 “ by Madame D’Illois in a manner
 “ which I did not conceive any other
 “ man could boast.”

F O L L Y CCLXXXIX.

“**Y**OU may all boast of what you
 “ please, gentlemen, (cried the
 “ financier Mondor) but I believe none
 “ of ye at this moment can say, they
 “ either do, or have *paid* half as much
 “ money to that lady as I have done.”

F O L L Y

F O L L Y CCXC.

“ **W**ELL, (said the Viscount) since
 “ it is evident we have all been
 “ equally deceived by her—let us, I
 / “ say, make it equally a point to be re-
 “ venged on so consummate an hypo-
 “ crite.” This motion was approved
 unanimously, and the Duke De Wilcan,
 with all the phlegmatic coolness of a Ger-
 man, promised, that if they would rely
 upon him, their wishes should be grati-
 fied, and the Marchioness sufficiently pu-
 nished for the duplicity of her conduct.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCXCI.

MADAME D'Illois, far from suspecting the combination against her, was at this time involved in some domestic concerns, which were very unexpected, and which took up her whole attention. As she was dressing very early one morning, in order to attend a very *agreeable preacher*, the Baron D'Urbain entered her apartment, and presenting to her a young person, dressed with the utmost magnificence, "Embrace, Madam, " (said he) your mother and my wife—"forget what she was—her beauty and "virtue have raised her to what she is." The Marchioness was infinitely surprised and shocked to recognize her chambermaid in her new relation, but recovering herself,

herself, reflected in an instant, that *the affairs of the Marquis were in so precarious a state, that it was not improbable she might soon be indebted to her father for her future subsistence*; she therefore took the new made Baroness round the neck, wished her joy of her new dignity, and assured her of her *love and affection*, whilst old Monsieur D'Urbain, delighted with the behaviour of his daughter, presented her with a diamond ring, and a draft on his banker for a considerable sum of money, then got into his chaise with his bride, and set off with a grand retinue for his chateau in the country.

F O L L Y CCXCII.

THAT day proved to be a day of events to Madame D'Illois, for the Baron could not have proceeded many miles on his journey before an express came from the army, which brought to the Marchioness the melancholy news of the death of the Marquis D'Illois, who had been killed in a duel by a general officer two days before.

F O L L Y CCXCIH.

THE letter which brought this account, contained not any other particulars; but the reader's curiosity may probably lead him to enquire, what could possibly have been cause sufficient to induce that man to draw a sword, who had so often submitted to bear the highest indignity that can be offered to an husband, without an attempt to revenge the insult? Soon after the Marquis arrived at the army, he formed an acquaintance with a general officer, and they became in a very short time the most intimate friends; however, Mons. D'Illois (knowing that he was a man of universal gallantry, and that Julia's fidelity was not to be greatly relied on) kept with

unaccustomed prudence, both his mistress and her abode from his knowledge; but the general had a servant, whose only merit was such kind of discoveries, and this man not only found out the whole secret, but carried several letters, and contrived matters so well, that Julia received several visits from his master without the least suspicion.

F O L L Y CCXCIV.

BUT unfortunately one night, when the Marquis was on duty, and the lovers thought themselves very secure, Monsieur D'Illois got a brother officer to take his place, and, it being a beautiful moon, resolved to visit Julia by way of an agreeable surprise.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y CCXCV.

THE Marquis, to his great surprise, found his fair one at supper with his General *en famille*; a magnificent present he had brought her lay on one chair, and his *robe de chambre* and night-cap on another. Enraged at the perfidy of his mistress, and at finding himself so evidently the dupe of his pretended friend, he upbraided her with ingratitude, threw the present out of the window, and even struck Julia several times. The general stood by a calm spectator of his rage, but the Marquis in rushing by him out at the door, unfortunately trod upon his toe—provoked at the indignity, he demanded instant satisfaction—D’Illois disdained to make any concession—caught up his sword which hung in the room—and they went out together immediately.

F O L L Y . CCXCVI.

IN fullen silence they walked some paces from the village—both drew at the same instant, and the Marquis having given his antagonist two slight wounds, was run through the body. The General had the humanity to send some peasants to his assistance, and they carried him to his tent, where he died in half an hour, yet lived long enough to generously declare himself the aggressor, by which means, as his adversary had not any bad consequences to dread, the death of the unfortunate Marquis rather added to, than diminished the lustre of his fame.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y CCXCVII.

JULIA returned directly to Paris, shewed herself at every *spectacle* more adorned and admired than ever; for what fashionable man would not wish to be noticed by the beauty for whom D'Ill-lois lost his life?—Thus she bloomed for a short time in the gay *parterre* of dissipation, till unfortunately falling in love with a gamester, he stripped her of her ill-acquired riches; and after experiencing all the wretchedness human life can suffer, this celebrated beauty died for want in a garret, without a friend or lover to lament her death.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y CCXCVIII.

THE Marchioness was at first really shocked at the unexpected death of Monsieur D'Illois—had him buried with the greatest magnificence—after which ceremony, his creditors seized all they could for payment, while his widow consoled herself with a large jointure, and declared she “should not pay any debts he had contracted.” Scarce had she received compliments of condolance, before she one evening received a note from her lover, (the Duke de Wilcan) in which he conjured her to “wave the delicacy of her present situation, and to devote some hours to love and his society, and
“ to

“ to come immediately to his *petite mai-*
 “ *son*, about three miles from Paris, as
 “ he had something of the utmost conse-
 “ quence to impart, which he should
 “ have waited on her to acquaint her with,
 “ did not decency forbid him to be seen
 “ going into her house.” Madame D’Il-
 lois was long undetermined how to act,
 but at last her evil genius suggested to
 her, that the Duke’s affection for her
 was such, that it was not at all impro-
 bable he should make her an offer of his
 hand, she, therefore, judged it prudent
 to comply with his wishes, as her vanity
 would not only be extremely flattered by
 becoming a duchess, but it would enable
 her once more to enter the world, and
 with some kind of propriety, in another
 kingdom, and lay aside a character of
 which she was become weary. Full of these
 imaginary prospects, she ordered a *fiacre*,
 and

and informing her servants she was going to visit a distressed family, to whom she wished her rank to be secret, should go unattended, and should afterwards visit the Abbess of —, where she would probably spend the night, and appointed her carriage to be at the convent gate at noon the following day, if she did not return before. Having thus taken every proper precaution to secure her from suspicion, she threw herself into the coach, and when at some little distance, ordered the coachman to drive to the Duke's *petite maison* with all possible expedition.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCXCIX.

THE Duke received the Marchioness with rapture, they supped with the utmost gaiety, and during the repast she had every reason to hope her ambition would be amply gratified; at length Madame D'Illois proposed to return home—the Duke urged her to stay all night—she represented the impropriety of such conduct—but importunity and inclination prevailed over the decency of widowhood—she then retired to rest, and the Duke promised to follow after having written a letter which he was obliged to send off to Versailles that evening. When she entered her chamber, (where she had often been accustomed to sleep) she found on her toilette a very elegant dishabille,
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ornamented in the highest stile that the most finished coquette could devise—she hesitated whether she should accept it—but charmed with the attention and magnificence of her lover, joined to a presumption that *it would become her extremely*, she determined to gratify his wishes and her own vanity, by adorning herself in a manner so unbecoming either the recent widow of D'Illois, or the professed devotee.

F O L L Y

F O L L Y CCC.

SHE had hardly compleated her toilette before the Duke entered the apartment, and he had scarce expressed his admiration of the additional graces she received from his present, before the door flew open, and in rushed the Viscount, the provincial, and the financier, whose shouts of laughter, and ironical compliments (on the situation in which they found her), sufficiently convinced the Marchioness that she was betrayed. Ready to sink with confusion, she covered her face with both her hands, and burst into a flood of tears—but on hearing the Duke join with the rest in some allusion to the well-known story

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of

of the Ephesian matron—despair gave her words, and she loudly assured them, “an insult to a woman of her rank, “should not go unpunished;” their laughter increased with her threats; and each having by turns, upbraided her with her hypocrisy, perfidy, and ingratitude, they at last suffered her to retire in the coach in which she came, (which they had the precaution to retain for that purpose); but not only maliciously opposed the Marchioness from again putting on her weeds to return home—but determined to keep her mourning habit as a trophy of the complete victory they had thus obtained.

FOLLY

F O L L Y CCCI.

Spiritless, dejected, and miserable to the last degree, the unhappy Marchioness arrived at Paris--where the expressions of astonishment the servants made use of at seeing her return in a dress so different from that in which she went out, and so uncommon in her present circumstances, filled her with rage and threw her into agonies not far from madness—she continued thus the whole night to the consternation of the whole family, who not being able to form any positive opinion, wearied themselves in vain endeavours to alleviate her sufferings. When she became more calm, reflection increased her despair, and convinced Madame D'Illois, that
the

the following day she would become the jest of all Paris ; she therefore determined to take refuge in the retirement of a convent, from those arrows of satire which would be levelled against her; and accordingly went at day-break to the convent of —, where it is to be feared she (at least for some years) shed more tears of vexation than repentance; and her temper being thus soured by misfortunes of her own creating, she daily declaimed loudly against the ingratitude of the world, *in which not one human being had ever received the least benefit from her existence.*

F I N I S.

